Printed for the use of the Foreign Office. April 1881.

CONFIDENTIAL.

(4443.)

F.O.
424

PART LIX.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF TURKEY.

March 1881.

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Printed for the use of the Foreign Office. April 1881.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Turkey.

PART LIX.

No. 1.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 1, 5·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Salonica, March* 1, 1881, 2 P.M.

WITH reference to my telegram of the 27th ultimo, General Ibrahim Pasha has occupied Uscup without opposition from Albanian League. Albanians of Dibra have ejected their Governor.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 2.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 2.)

E

(No. 27. Political.)

My Lord, *Salonica, February* 20, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship extract from a letter from a correspondent at Kiuprulu, furnishing some information on the proceedings of the Albanian League, and on the general state of affairs at Uscup.

Some of the Albanian Chiefs are now visiting the southern districts of the Vilayet of Cossova for the purpose of inviting the people to join their League; but it appears, from all I hear, that they meet with little encouragement from the inhabitants, who, for the most part, are what Turks call "Feti Evlad" (children of conquerors), and between whom and the Albanians the only common bond is the profession of Islamism.

The districts of Radovitz, Istip, and Kotchana will have nothing to do with the League, as is shown by the following telegram received by the Vali from the communities thereof:—

(Translation.) "*February* 14.

"The Albanian League insists upon enrolling troops in our district. Upon our informing the Chiefs, who have come here with that mission, that we are not prepared to enlist, they threatened to compel us by force. We have sent a telegram of 279 words to the Prime Minister complaining of these proceedings, and we now solicit your energetic support in our favour."

Radovitz, a small district to the north of the Vilayet of Salonica, is included in the Sandjak of Uscup, and situated between the districts of Stroumnitza and Istip. It is composed of a township, containing some 500 houses (half Turkish and half Bulgarian) and 53 villages, of which 24 are occupied by Turks, 20 by Christians (Bulgarians), and 9 by Turks and Bulgarians.

The districts of Istip and Kotchana, still further north, are larger, more populous, and also have no ties either of feeling or of blood with the Albanians.

I may also remark that the same is the case in the towns and villages in the basins

of the Rivers Vardar and Kara-Sou (Strymon), with the exception of a few villages in the district of Kiuprulu. In fact, the Mahommedan population of almost the whole of the Vilayet of Salonica is composed partly of "Cogniaris," the descendants of colonists brought into the country from Asia shortly after the Turkish conquest, and partly of Bulgarians, Greeks, and Wallachs who have adopted the Mahommedan religion, and preserved their national languages and many of their distinctive characteristics.

Nor is the religious ardour of these Mahommedans such as to lead them under the influence of the Albanian League, and I think it very likely that they would actively support the Porte to suppress the movement, an impression in some measure borne out by the fact, that all the Mahommedans in the southern districts of the Vilayet of Cossova liable to serve have readily offered themselves for enrolment in the Redifs, whereas the Albanians in the northern districts have stoutly refused to come forward.

One very gratifying and important feature in the situation of affairs in the Vilayet of Cossova is the fact that comparative security of life and property now prevails there: the blood feuds which have always disturbed the social relations of the Albanians are in abeyance; brigands and other lawless characters no longer roam about with impunity, and the taxes are regularly collected under the authority of the League. This interesting and significant condition of things is confirmed by the accounts which have been received by the Salonica merchants from their agents in the interior, and by persons who have recently visited Mitrovitza, Pristina, Uscup, Comanova, and Kiuprulu.

I have seen several of these individuals, who told me that they were struck with the anxiety the Chiefs of the League manifest to prevent excesses and maintain order and tranquillity.

They also observed that the League have practically got possession of the administration of the Vilayet of Cossova, and that the Turkish civil and military authorities are pursuing a passive policy towards their movement.

In the town of Uscup the most severe police measures are enforced by the League; houses of bad repute have been closed, and no Mahommedan is allowed to enter the taverns! Should any Mahommedan transgress this order he is held up to public ridicule by being conducted through the town with a bottle tied round his neck, and afterwards bastinadoed and fined!

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 2.

Extract from a Letter from Kiuprulu, dated February 15, 1881.

J'AI appris de source certaine que quelques Chefs de la Ligue se sont rendus dans les divers cazas (districts) du Sandjak d'Uscup à la tête de vingt à vingt-cinq hommes dans chaque caza, dans le but de persuader les Notables de ces localités à prendre part à la Ligue, et pour avoir leur serment fraternelle ("Bessa").

Ici, à Kiuprulu, on ne les recevra pas parce que on ne veut pas entrer dans la Ligue, et les Albanais n'y viendront pas par force.

Dès que j'aurais des informations sur les décisions prises par la réunion de Prisrend, je vous les transmettrai.

La tranquillité règne partout et tout le monde vaque à ses affaires. Si dans la suite il y aura un changement dans les choses je vous en informerai.

On m'écrit d'Uscup que plusieurs Bashi-Bozouks se réuniront là-bas, mais dans quel but on ignore.

J'espère qu'on ne portera pas atteinte aux intérêts du commerce, car il est établi dans le programme de la Ligue de ne pas entraver les affaires; du reste, les Chefs de la Ligue eux-mêmes ont plusieurs propriétés, et il est dans leur intérêt de maintenir l'ordre et la tranquillité.

No. 3.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received March 2.)

E
(No. 28. Political.)
My Lord, *Salonica, February* 23, 1881.

A GENTLEMAN, who has special means of information in the interior, has sent me the inclosed letter respecting the Albanian movement.

He confirms some of the information I reported to your Lordship in my immediately preceding despatch, and states having heard that the Christians in district of Prisrend are considerably alarmed, and have signed a petition to Austria asking her intervention and protection.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 3.

Mr. ——— *to Consul-General Blunt.*

Sir, *Salonica, February* 22, 1881.

I HOLD, from the very best authority, that things are taking a very serious turn in Upper Albania.

In Uscup, as well as in Pristina, Mitrovitza, Prisrend, and other large towns in the Vilayet of Cossova, the League alone reigns, uncontested by any one.

Bands of forty and fifty armed Albanians are sent by the League to different places of less importance, such as Comanova, Radovitz, Istip, &c., where its authority has not yet been recognized, to oblige the inhabitants to accept the new order of things. The Kaïmakams of some of these places have telegraphed for instructions to head-quarters, but, strange to say, they got answers to the effect that they were to obey the mandates of the League, and in every such instance instructions were sent to the influential Mahommedans.

The Christians in and around Prisrend are in a state of considerable alarm. As it is known that the fanatical Albanians alone have joined the movement, the Christians (not without reason) fear disturbances.

I hear that 300 of the most influential Christians, chiefly Latins, have signed a petition to Austria, asking for her intervention and protection, and it is said that this demand has been got up and is signed by the Catholic Archbishop of Prisrend.

The Railway Company still refuse to convey war materials from any of the stations of the upper line.

Yachar Bey is in supreme command at Uscup, where, by his orders, a Bulgarian, quite lately, was tied to a post and severely beaten for having sold wine to some Turks. All hotels and khans are continually visited by agents sent by the local Council of the League, and all strangers are required to exhibit their passports and Teskerehs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ———.

No. 4.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received March 2.)

(No. 138.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 24, 1881.

AT my interview with Assim Pasha on the 20th instant, I took occasion to speak to him on the subject of Eastern Roumelia.

Alluding to the repeated statements, that the policy of England is at present dictated by a spirit of hostility to Turkey, I told him I felt sure he would recognize that the friendly advice I was about to give him was a proof of our desire to promote the real strength and prosperity of the Turkish Empire. A favourable moment had arrived to secure the good-will of the people of Eastern Roumelia, and if the Porte could secure such good-will, it would clearly be of immense service to them in the troubled state of the Empire, and when complications were threatening them on every side. I proceeded to describe the greatly improved condition of things in Eastern Roumelia; the subsidence of the agitation for union with Bulgaria; the greater firmness in resisting the influence of the Panslavist party; the better treatment of the Moslem population; in fact, the various features of

improvement which have been reported to Her Majesty's Government by Mr. Stephen. I then called attention to the irritation produced by the refusal of the Sublime Porte to approve the Budget or the nominations of the Directors of Finance and Justice, or those of the Prefects, and I suggested that if, taking advantage of, and in recognition of, the better tone prevailing in the province, the Sublime Porte were at once, as an act of conciliation, to sanction the Budget and the nominations, such a step could not fail to have a powerful effect on the public mind, and would clearly assist in removing some of the remaining causes of discontent. Nothing could be lost by such a step in other respects. A state of illegality was being continued in the province by the absence of the Imperial sanction to measures which were in operation notwithstanding.

His Excellency appeared quite unable to grasp the argument thus put forward, or to take any broad view of the position. He lost himself in detailed explanations as to why the Imperial sanction had not been given to this or that appointment.

I endeavoured, in vain, to point out that I was not questioning at the moment the reasons on which sanction had been refused. The Sublime Porte might be right or wrong. The expediency of the policy I recommended rested on quite different grounds. My view was that it would be wise in any case, as an act of conciliation, to sink such differences in order to win over the good-will of the people.

His Excellency, however, did not give me the impression that he was in the least persuaded that it was not wise to maintain the present attitude of the Sublime Porte of constant and irritating antagonism.

I have reported this conversation to your Lordship, as it affords a fair illustration of the blindness which appears to me to have fallen on the Turks in dealing with the undoubtedly difficult problems which surround them. Preparing themselves, as they are, for a possible conflict with Greece, with Macedonia a hotbed of difficulties, the Albanians utterly unmanageable, troubles brewing in Syria, the Kurds out of hand and threatening to invade Persia, the Turkish Government, nevertheless, cannot see the advantages of taking a step which would contribute materially towards the pacification of the public mind, in a province where it would be of such paramount importance that tranquillity and a good feeling towards Turkey should prevail.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 5.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 2.)

(No. 139.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 24, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a letter addressed to me by his Excellency Aleko Pasha, in which, after speaking in very flattering terms of the services rendered by Mr. Stephen in the very delicate position in which he was placed at Philippopoli, he states that the Sultan, at his request, had decided to confer on him the Order of the third class of the Osmanie.

I have replied to his Excellency that I have forwarded his letter to your Lordship so that your Lordship might be informed of his Excellency's views as to the manner in which Mr. Stephen had discharged his duty; but that it was certain that the required permission could not be given to Mr. Stephen to accept the Order, as it would be contrary to the regulations to do so.

I am glad to be able to add that I share the views expressed by Aleko Pasha as to Mr. Stephen's conduct while at Philippopoli, and consider that he has rendered very useful service to Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 5.

Aleko Pasha to Mr. Goschen.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Philippopoli, le* 2 *Février*, 1881.

IL y a environ huit mois le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique a chargé M. A. Condie Stephen de venir gérer intérimairement, en l'absence de M. Michell, le poste

du Consulat-Général d'Angleterre en cette ville. Or, en présence de la nomination du titulaire du précité poste, et conséquemment du prochain départ de M. Stephen, je me sens heureux, M. l'Ambassadeur, de pouvoir vous dire que M. Stephen a su, en ce court laps de temps, gagner la confiance et les sympathies générales par sa connaissance du pays, des races diverses qui l'habitent, de leurs langues respectives, et des conditions d'existence auxquelles elles sont destinées; et qu'en maintes circonstances très critiques il a pu, en associant l'esprit de conciliation, d'impartialité, et de tact dont il est doué, à celui du Gouvernement, aider puissamment celui-ci à calmer bien des craintes, bien des espérances malsaines, et à éviter peut-être de fâcheux conflits.

Aussi, la nouvelle du prochain départ de M. Stephen n'a pas manqué de produire sur le Gouvernement et sur la nation une profonde déception et bien des regrets.

En présence donc de la gérance on ne peut plus délicate et plus difficile de M. Stephen et des services par lui rendu à la province et à moi-même, dans l'accomplissement de ma tâche comme Gouverneur-Général, je n'ai pu ne pas éprouver le vif désir d'associer aux nombreux remercîments que je dois à M. Stephen un souvenir de son séjour dans ce pays.

A cet effet je me suis adressé à Sa Majesté le Sultan, qui a bien voulu adhérer à ma demande en daignant conférer à M. Stephen les insignes de l'Osmanie de troisième classe, insignes que je viens instamment prier le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine par votre entremise, M. l'Ambassadeur, de vouloir bien autoriser M. Stephen à accepter.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) A. BOGORIDI.

No. 6.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 2, 6 P.M.)

(No. 1.)
(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, March* 2, 1881, 12·15 P.M.

WITH reference to despatch to your Lordship from Consul at Serajevo of the 1st ultimo, two Mahommedans, recently returned from Vienna, have been arrested by Ottoman authorities at Mitrovitza, and are being tried for high treason. League demands surrender, in order to execute them off-hand.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 7.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 3.)

(No. 1.)
My Lord, *Cettinjé, February* 12, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that I arrived here the day before yesterday, having been obliged to avail myself at Corfu of the direct Austrian Lloyd's steamer proceeding to Cattaro.

Prince Nicholas was away at Rieka distributing commemorative medals for the late war, but as soon as my arrival was reported to him he telegraphed to inform me that he would at once return to Cettinjé.

His Highness has renewed to me all the expressions of gratitude towards the English nation which I had the honour of reporting to your Lordship prior to my departure on leave of absence, and His Highness has felt much gratified by the few words of satisfaction which your Lordship authorized me to convey to him, in the name of Her Majesty's Government, for the attitude of subordination to the wishes of the European Powers which he had observed during the whole of the negotiations connected with the termination of the Dulcigno arrangement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 8.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 3.)

(No. 2.)
My Lord, *Cettinjé, February* 12, 1881.

CONSIDERABLE importance has been given in some quarters to a report which has appeared in the Vienna newspapers of a kind of pic-nic which Prince Nicholas gave a few weeks ago at a village close to this place, and where the newly-arrived Greek Agent, M. Logotheti, was present.

This gentleman appears to have admired very much a silver-mounted dagger carried by one of the Prince's guards, whereupon His Highness at once presented M. Logotheti with the weapon.

In the newspapers it is stated that the Prince said the dagger had been most successfully used against the Turks, and that he hoped it would not be allowed to remain idle in its new owner's hands.

Colonel Thoemmel, the Austro-Hungarian Minister, has called upon the Montenegrin Government to send an official denial of this little speech to the newspapers, as it is calculated to cast doubts on the pacific intentions of the Principality; but the Prince, whilst asserting that he never used the words attributed to him, has considered that it would be undignified to give explanations to newspapers as well as to Governments on this matter, and therefore his Minister has declined to send to the Vienna press the suggested communication.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 9.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 3.)

(No. 4)
My Lord, *Cettinjé, February* 13, 1881.

PRINCE NICHOLAS has expressed to me the great satisfaction experienced by him at the decision arrived at by all the Boundary Commissioners, except the Turkish, with regard to the Montenegrin frontier between Lake Scutari and the sea.

His Highness has caused the withdrawal of his outposts from all positions excluded from the present delimitation, although the Turkish troops still remain at San Giorgio.

His Highness trusts that his firm maintenance of the line which had been submitted to him for acceptance as a final one in exchange for that of the 12th April will not have alienated from him the sympathy of Her Majesty's Government. He has felt that his determination to stand by what the Powers, in a way, had awarded to the Principality was the surest means of preventing the reopening of a question which had been closed with such difficulty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 10.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 3.)

(No. 7. Secret and Confidential.)
My Lord, *Cettinjé, February* 14, 1881.

I HAVE been confidentially informed by Prince Nicholas that Prince Alexander of Bulgaria having expressed the wish to pay a complimentary visit to Montenegro about the middle of April next, His Highness has replied that, owing to the Princess expecting her confinement about that time, it is hoped Prince Alexander will not find it inconvenient to postpone his visit until the middle of May.

I have ascertained from another source that considerable importance is attached to this visit by the Russian Government, and that it has been initiated from St. Petersburgh.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 11.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 3.)

(No. 8.)
My Lord, *Scutari, February* 16, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that I reached this yesterday from Montenegro, and that I have found perfect order and quietness existing in Scutari.

Although I shall not venture to report fully on the state of North Albania until I have been a few days longer here, I have no hesitation in stating already that I perceive clearly that the present tranquillity arises merely from a sense of apathy which has overpowered the people after a period of great nervous tension and political excitement; and that this may cease from one moment to another, when the undoubted weakness of the present local authorities will become lamentably apparent.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 12.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 3.)

(No. 10.)
My Lord, *Scutari, February* 19, 1881.

ALL kinds of rumours prevail here concerning the political movements of the Albanians in the districts of Ipek, Jacova, and Prisrend, but I have not yet been able to ascertain on what data these reports are based.

It appears, however, certain that at Prisrend the Ottoman authorities have been dismissed, and replaced by natives selected by what is called "the League" in that part of the country.

Here the impression exists that the Porte is still controlling the movement, but as yet I have no reason to share this opinion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 13.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 153.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 3, 1881, 6·15 P.M.

"CONDOR" will leave Smyrna to-morrow for Salonica and Volo, as suggested in your telegram No. 77.

No. 14.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 4.)

E
(No. 5. Most Confidential.)
My Lord, *Cettinjé, February* 13, 1881.

ALTHOUGH no immediate interest may attach to matters which have occurred as far back as two summers ago, I think it right to place here before your Lordship, most confidentially, a few details concerning the visit of Prince Nicholas to the Emperor of Austria during the military manœuvres at Bruck of September 1879, for they show the peculiar manner in which the Austro-Hungarian Government has negotiated with Prince Nicholas.

The following particulars have been derived from a partial perusal of the original diary kept by Prince Nicholas for the edification of Princess Milena and some of His Highness' most intimate Ministers:

The offer of the Prince to visit the Emperor was made at the instigation of Colonel Thoemmel, and on the ground that His Imperial Majesty fully expected to be thanked by Montenegro for the attitude observed by Austria during the insurrection of the Herzegovine, and the subsequent war with Turkey.

Prince Nicholas' speech at his first reception by the Emperor was, therefore, a warm expression of gratitude on the part of himself and people towards His Imperial Majesty

for the valuable assistance derived through the opportune Austrian interference with the use by the Turks of the port of Klek, and for the permission which had been given to introduce into Montenegro a battery of heavy field artillery by a simulated act of smuggling near the Dalmatian port of Budua, whereby the Ottoman fortresses of Niksic, Antivari, &c., were easily captured.

The gracious reception of these thanks encouraged the Prince to continue in following Colonel Thoemmel's advice, and on the first favourable occasion His Highness ventured to pray His Imperial Majesty that some slight modifications of the Berlin frontier on the Herzegovine borders might be permitted in his favour. The Emperor referred the Prince to Count Andrassy, but his Excellency, whilst consenting to listen to His Highness, renewed certain demands concerning a Convention which he wished should be concluded with reference to Austrian control over the Montenegrin sea-coast and ports, secured by the XXIXth Article of the Treaty of Berlin.

Prince Nicholas perceiving that an attempt was being made to reopen a matter which he had already refused at Cettinjé to discuss with the Austrian Minister Resident, except on the well-defined basis of receiving an equivalent whilst giving, asked the Count to consider his application as never having been made. Hereupon his Excellency urged that the question of a rectification of the Herzegovine frontier should not be deemed closed by His Highness, and that he would depute Baron Calice to come and discuss it with him.

The result of these negotiations was, that the Prince agreed that his frontiers of the Herzegovine and Bosnian side should be marked out under a mutual accord between the Austrian and Montenegrin Governments without the intervention of the International Boundary Commission, and that certain modifications with regard to Austrian control on the Montenegrin sea-coasts secured by the XXIXth Article of the Treaty of Berlin should be embodied in a secret Convention.

Prince Nicholas concludes his diary with a few regrets at having been entrapped by Colonel Thoemmel into undertaking a visit which had evidently been planned for the purpose of extorting from His Highness concessions intended to place the Principality more than ever under the vassalage of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

It is true he refused to accord the presence of purely Austrian officials in his ports, and that the Imperial arms should stand side-by-side with those of Montenegro on all maritime official buildings; but still he has been obliged to conclude a separate Convention when he would have preferred to hold solely by the XXIXth Article, and he has had to permit the delimitation of his Herzegovine frontiers without gaining any perceptible rectification.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 15.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received March 4.)

E
(No. 6. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Cettinjé, February* 13, 1881.

ON my arrival here I found the Montenegrin Government greatly satisfied at the majority of the Boundary Commission having decided that the thalweg of the River Boyana is to form the Principality's frontier, as far as the neighbourhood of San Giorgio; but I learnt from the Prince that some fencing had been taking place between the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Colonel Thoemmel, the Austrian Representative, concerning the extension to the newly-acquired coast-line of the Convention which already exists between their two Governments on the control to be exercised by Austria-Hungary in the maritime matters of the Principality under sanction of the XXIXth Article of the Treaty of Berlin.

Voïvoda Radonich has offered to execute a written engagement accepting in every respect for the "new maritime coast-line" ("littoral maritime") of the Dulcigno arrangement, the Convention already existing for the Antivari coast. Colonel Thoemmel has requested that the word "maritime" should be eliminated from the proffered engagement, but this has been declined in somewhat undefined terms.

The Prince has informed me confidentially that he fears if he accepts Colonel Thoemmel's definition of the newly-acquired Montenegrin coast-line to mean also the waters of the River Boyana, that in a short time he may find himself obliged to submit to Austrian supervision on Lake Scutari. His Highness asked me what advice I had to

offer him. I replied that I was not prepared to counsel anything that could be construed by His Highness as an encouragement to resist the wishes of the Austro-Hungarian Government, with which I was aware that Her Majesty's Government was anxious that Montenegro should always be in unison; but, I said, that, until I received instructions to the contrary, I would feel it incumbent upon me to object most strongly to every attempt to place the slightest impediment on the free navigation of the River Boyana.

I said I looked upon this matter entirely from the British and Albano-Turkish standpoints.

From the first, being avowedly the strongest maritime Power, it would be perceived that we could not lend ourselves to closing to our vessels of war more waters than it was possible to avoid, especially when those waters led to an important military position of a country which we could never have an interest in weakening or destroying, and to which we might be desirous some day of holding out a helping hand.

From the Albano-Turkish point of view, the assumption that the XXIXth Article of the Treaty of Berlin is applicable to the waters of the River Boyana, from the entrance of the river up to the village of San Giorgio, must appear even more unacceptable.

The experiences of the Ottoman Government of the Austrian manner of exercising its control over the waters of Klek and of the Suttorina, in the Bocche di Cattaro, are sufficient to warn it against considering any such supervision an advantage.

The navigation of all rivers, through the impediments arising from shallows, currents, floods, &c., cannot be confined to the right or to the left bank; at one part the channel near the left may be navigable, at another, that to the right.

Colonel Thoemmel's pretension to apply the restrictive clauses of the XXIXth Article of the Treaty not only to the sea-coast, but also to the right side of the Boyana up to San Giorgio, would therefore result in shutting the Turks off from Scutari. It is true Article XXIX mentions that the port of Antivari, and all the waters of Montenegro, shall remain closed to the ships of war of all nations, but it also stipulates complete freedom of navigation for Montenegro on the Boyana, and this privilege was secured when that river was still entirely Turkish, and therefore available to the navies of all nations. Further, from the terms of the Dulcigno compromise, which your Lordship directed should be submitted to the Powers, as appears from despatch No. 239 of the 3rd June last, in Blue Book "Turkey No. 22 (1880)," it is clearly evident that only the new sea-coast to be added to Montenegro was to be subject to the same conditions as those attached by the Treaty of Berlin (Article XXIX) to the coast then ceded to the Principality.

Any other interpretation than this would be disastrous for Albania, and I presume there has never been the slightest intention to weigh more heavily than necessary on that country, through the obligation under which the Powers found themselves of depriving it of the Dulcigno territory. Indeed, one of the chief arguments in favour of that arrangement was that it would strengthen rather than weaken the Albanians, but, with Austria at the mouth of the Boyana warning off Turkish transports with supplies, troops, or ammunitions for Scutari, and declining to permit the passage of the steam gun-boats necessary for defence on the lake, where would be the safety of Scutari, and of the Turkish troops in this vilayet?

In winter, when the Drin and Boyana are inundated, the last-named river offers the only available access from the coast to Scutari; and in a moment of political difficulty, such as occurred in the Herzegovina in 1876-77, the town, if the Boyana is shut to the Turkish navy, could easily be reduced to the greatest straits, and forced by its capitulation to place the whole of Albania in peril. No precautions about the navigation of the Boyana need be thought of in case of a *bonâ fide* war between Turkey and Montenegro. The first military operation that would then result would be a struggle to obtain complete command over that water-way. The success of this or that side would decide the fate of Scutari; but in an unofficial war, such as I have already alluded to, Treaty restrictions applied in a partial manner would prove more than calamitous.

These facts are so self-evident that I am greatly inclined to believe Colonel Thoemmel has mistaken the intentions of his Government, and that there is no real wish at Vienna to interfere with the free access of the River Boyana by the Turkish and other navies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 16.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received March 4.)

E
(No. 11.)
My Lord, *Scutari, February 20, 1881.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 6 of the 13th instant, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that I have ascertained since my arrival here that a very strong feeling is entertained by the Albanians on the subject of the complete freedom of navigation of the Boyana.

They pretend that Bedri Bey, the Turkish Boundary Commissioner, was aware of this when he declined to vote with the majority on the subject of the thalweg frontier.

I have been careful not to express to them, for the moment, an opinion on the subject; but, as your Lordship is aware, I should fully share their alarm if the Turkish Government should find the river closed to it, and that even the steam gun-boats now on Lake Scutari are cut off from their necessary periodical visits to the docks and arsenals of Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 17.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received March 4.)

(No. 12.)
My Lord, *Scutari, February 20, 1881.*

I NOTICE considerable anxiety among Turkish officials here concerning the reported political movement in the Vilayet of Kossovo. The silence observed on the subject by the Porte only appears to add to their apprehensions; and, to privately allay the alarm, I have applied for information from Mr. Goschen on the rumoured dispatch of Dervish Pasha in the direction of Prisrend.

The authorities have received notice that several emissaries from the North-east Albanian League, and also from Middle Albania, have arrived in Scutari, and have been advocating the union of Albania into an autonomous province. The uncertainty as to the wishes of the Porte makes it difficult for these persons to be dealt with, and, consequently, daily increases the weakness of the Government Administration.

In fact, since the departure of Dervish Pasha from Scutari, the civil Turkish authorities here have evaporated into a shadow, seemingly trusting to the strong military force still on the spot to smother any outburst, should the North Albanians suddenly wake up from their present lethargy.

Of this last event I do not think there is any immediate danger, unless it is true that Dervish Pasha has been entrusted with the pacification of the Kossovo Vilayet, and should he fail in accomplishing his mission.

A check, or the assassination of this dreaded General, both of which occurrences are secretly and ardently prayed for by all Arnauts, would be a sufficient spark to set ablaze against the Ottoman rule the whole of Albania.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 18.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received March 4.)

(No. 13.)
My Lord, *Scutari, February 21, 1881.*

A LETTER has been received, within the last few days, by the Scutari Notables from the Albanian League at Prisrend, announcing to them that it is intended to form an autonomous Albanian State, and calling upon this province to enter into a "Besa," or solemn engagement, to demand the concession of the Sultan.

A reply has been sent to the effect that, Scutari having been abandoned by the rest of Albania during its recent struggle to prevent the cession of Dulcigno, it has no intention nor wish to find itself again opposing the Porte.

I must, however, explain to your Lordship that if, as the Prisrend League pretends, a movement for autonomy is really on foot, the reply from Scutari must not be considered as in any way diminishing its value. The Mussulman Scutarines do not represent the

feeling of the Roman Catholics and the mountain tribes, who certainly anxiously await a change; and their numbers are so inconsiderable, and their position, with regard to the rest of Albania, so isolated, that their abstention would be a fact of very minor importance.

In the southern parts of this vilayet the Prisrend League, I am sure, will meet with warm sympathy. When the Scutari Committee applied in that direction for assistance about Dulcigno, the Beys and Aghas there replied that it would only be given on condition that it should be the prelude to the cessation of Ottoman rule. As this engagement was refused, no volunteers from south of Alessio were seen on the Mazura heights.

I am assured that in all Albanian districts where the conscription has been enforced, and where Mahommedans predominate, the sacrifices in money and men entailed through the last five years of insurrections and war have developed, in a most extraordinary manner, the idea of obtaining relief through the establishment of an autonomous Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 19.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received March 7.)

E
(No. 11. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Sophia, February 10, 1881.*

ON the receipt of your Lordship's telegram of the 8th instant, I at once applied for an audience of His Highness the Prince of Bulgaria, in order to inform him that your Lordship had authorized me to speak in the same sense as my French colleague had already done on the subject of His Highness' action with regard to the electoral law, and his opposition to the attempts made by the Chamber and the Ministers to exclude Mussulmans.

The Prince thanked me for this communication, and said that it was a great consolation to him to know that his action had been approved by the Great Powers. His Highness then went on to speak of the position in which he was placed with regard to his Ministers. He had observed that since he had insisted upon the dismissal of M. Zancoff and had refused to sign the electoral law, the Ministers seemed to be afraid of him, but that they were continually seeking by underhand means to oppose his wishes. As one instance out of many, His Highness told me that the sums which had been voted for the construction of the Palace had been originally placed under His Highness' control, but that he had been obliged, in consequence of the insinuations which had been made against his Marechal de la Cour, who is his personal friend and his Private Secretary, to give up the control of the money. Pretexts had been formed for getting rid of the Austrian architect, whom His Highness had employed, and a contract was about to be made with a Bulgarian architect, who would practically be free from control in spending money, upon which he was to receive a Commission. His Highness said that it was sufficient for him to express a wish that anything should be done to ensure its being opposed by his Ministers.

The Prince then went on to say that he foresaw that a conflict would probably take place between himself and the Chamber during the next Session, in which case he could not expect any support from his Ministers, and his hands were completely tied by the Constitution, which gave so much power to the Chamber. He was, however, determined, if the conflict should arise, to convoke the great National Assembly, and declare to them that unless the Constitution were modified he should place his resignation in their hands and leave the country. He was aware that he might appeal to the Great Powers for their support, but his position would only be rendered the more difficult if he had to maintain it by foreign assistance.

I told His Highness that I sincerely trusted that matters would not go so far as to induce him to leave the country. I reminded him that on the occasion of M. Zancoff's dismissal as well as of the passing of the electoral law, the Chamber had given way before the firm attitude adopted by His Highness, and I hoped that this would be the case again. I should have thought that M. Karaveloff, who has great influence in the country, would do all he could to prevent the confusion which would inevitably arise if His Highness should be compelled to leave—a confusion which would not improbably lead to a foreign occupation.

His Highness replied that M. Karaveloff was not likely to do anything that would

endanger his popularity, and that he certainly could not count upon his support in obtaining a modification of the Constitution.

His Highness then said that he had hitherto received the most loyal support from General Ehrnrooth, without whose assistance he would not have been able to oppose the will of the Chamber. He was, however, afraid that the General would not remain long in Bulgaria. Constant intrigues were being carried on against him, and complaints of his conduct had been made to St. Petersburgh.

From what I have been able to learn from other sources, it appears that M. Zancoff and his friends are very active in fomenting a hostile feeling in the country towards the Prince by putting forward M. Zancoff in the light of a true patriot who has fallen a victim to the despotism of the Palace.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 20.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received March 7.)

E
(No. 12.)

My Lord, *Sophia, February* 12, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a Circular which has been addressed to the Agents of the Great Powers at Sophia by the Bulgarian Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject of the immigration of the inhabitants of Macedonia into Bulgaria, which has caused serious embarrassment to the Bulgarian Government.

M. Stoitchoff points out that this immigration is caused by the ill-treatment and persecution to which the Bulgarians of Macedonia are subjected, and that the Ottoman Government is powerless to provide for the security of the inhabitants of a country in which the recollections of the events of 1877-78 have aroused religious and national passion.

The Bulgarian Government consider it a duty of humanity to call the attention of the Powers to the atrocities which are being committed, and which call to memory the excesses committed in Bosnia and Bulgaria in 1875 and 1876.

The difficulties which this state of things cause to the Bulgarian Government are very great, not so much on account of the extra burden laid upon the Treasury in consequence of the great number of refugees as on account of the effect which the reports of these cruelties produce on the population, which, although naturally peaceful, is still under the influence of the sufferings which it endured.

M. Stoitchoff then calls attention to the efforts made by the Bulgarian Government and by the Prince himself to bring about a better feeling between the Bulgarian and Mussulman population of the Principality; but he is afraid that this work of pacification will be compromised by the agitation which exists on the south-west frontier, and by the indignation caused by the accounts given by the unfortunate refugees.

The Bulgarian Government have thought it their duty to call the attention of the Great Powers to the dangers which may arise from this melancholy state of things, and to point out to them their anxiety for the present and their fears for the future, in consequence of the unhappy situation of the Christian population of Macedonia.

This note did not reach me until after M. Stoitchoff's departure for Vienna. His Excellency had, however, already informed me that he was preparing it, and gave me a sketch of what it would contain. I told his Excellency that it appeared to me that it was a very delicate matter for the Bulgarian Government to raise a question with regard to Macedonia. Such a step might be considered as an attempt on the part of the Bulgarian Government to interfere with Macedonian affairs, and the Porte would probably seek to throw the blame of any disturbances in Macedonia on the Bulgaro-Macedonian League.

M. Stoitchoff replied that the Bulgaro-Macedonian League had ceased to exist, and that it never had the slightest importance. The small amount of money that had been collected had been appropriated by the persons who had collected it. The arrival of large numbers of refugees was a serious burden upon the Bulgarian Treasury, and it was very hard upon the Bulgarian Government, when they were doing all they could to improve the condition of the Mussulmans in the Principality, to find that the Bulgarians in Macedonia were being cruelly persecuted. His Excellency denied that there was the slightest intention on the part of the Bulgarian Government to interfere in any way in Macedonian affairs, but he thought it was very necessary that the Great Powers should be informed of what was going on.

M. Stoitchoff's note is accompanied by a résumé of the information received by the Bulgarian Government with regard to the acts of brigandage committed in Macedonia in 1880, copy of which I have the honour to inclose.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure 1 in No. 20.

M. Stoitchoff to Mr. Lascelles.

M. l'Agent, *Sophia, le* 8 *Février*, 1881.

LE courant d'émigration des habitants de la Macédoine en Bulgarie attirait depuis longtemps l'attention du Gouvernement Princier, mais comme il tend à devenir toujours plus considérable, Son Altesse le Prince de Bulgarie s'en est ému, et sur son invitation le Conseil des Ministres m'a engagé à attirer l'attention des Puissances Garantes sur cet état anormal et douloureux.

Lorsque le Gouvernement Princier vit le grand nombre de Macédoniens qui venaient chercher un refuge en Bulgarie, il pensa qu'il était la conséquence de la situation créée par le Traité de Berlin.

Il était en effet naturel de supposer que les habitants de la Macédoine avaient pu espérer la reconnaissance de leur autonomie après la signature des préliminaires de paix du 31 Janvier, 1878, et que déçus dans leurs espérances ils s'étaient décidés à abandonner leurs foyers pour venir en Bulgarie.

Des secours étaient accordés à ces malheureux; nous pensions que ce déplacement de population n'était que temporaire, mais aujourd'hui l'affluence des immigrants est telle qu'elle est la cause de sérieux embarras de divers genres pour le Gouvernement Princier.

Les causes qui poussent les fugitifs à franchir la frontière sont maintenant parfaitement connues; ils fuient les mauvais traitements, les persécutions, le pillage, car leur vie, pas plus que leurs biens, ne sont respectés.

Loin de vouloir nous immiscer dans ce qui se passe au delà de notre frontière, nous croyons au contraire que la responsabilité des actes barbares dont sont victimes les populations Macédoniennes ne saurait retomber sur le Gouvernement Ottoman; cependant nous ne pouvons nous empêcher de dire que son autorité est impuissante pour maintenir l'ordre et assurer la tranquillité et la sécurité des habitants dans des contrées où les souvenirs des événements de 1877-78 ont surexcité les passions religieuses et nationales.

Les événements qui se passent journellement à notre frontière sont la confirmation des appréhensions manifestées aux Conférences de Constantinople et de Berlin.

La lueur d'espoir que les habitants Chrétiens avaient eu que l'heure de l'indépendance était proche, et les manifestations de joie auxquelles ils s'étaient livrés servent de prétexte aux Musulmans pour leur faire des vexations de tout genre.

C'est le cas des populations Macédoniennes, et les souffrances qu'endurent nos malheureux frères rappellent les excès commis en Bosnie et en Bulgarie pendant les années 1875-76. Les districts qui touchent à l'Albanie Musulmane sont surtout le théâtre de scènes, de meurtre, de pillage, et de viol.

Le brigandage s'y exerce sous toutes les formes, et les renseignements détaillés, certains, qu'on peut vérifier, tant les indications sont précises, dépassent l'imagination.

Nous croyons donc remplir un devoir d'humanité en attirant l'attention des Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin. Ne penseront-elles pas qu'il y a urgence de mettre une terme aux atrocités qui se commettent chaque jour, et à l'affreux désordre qui règne dans certaines localités.

Les difficultés que nous crée cet état des choses sont immenses. Ce n'est pas seulement les charges qu'imposent au Tresor le grand nombre des réfugiés qui nous inquiète; c'est surtout l'effet produit par le bruit qui se répand partout, de ces cruautés, sur l'esprit de nos populations, paisibles de leur nature, mais encore sous l'influence des souffrances qu'elles ont endurées.

Tous les efforts du Gouvernement Princier tendent à chercher d'effacer dans les esprits les souvenirs irritants du passé, amener l'apaisement des haines qui peuvent encore subsister, et habituer les sujets Chrétiens à voir désormais dans leurs compatriotes Musulmans des membres d'une même famille; jouissant des mêmes droits et soumis aux mêmes devoirs.

Ces idées de conciliation sont constamment rappelées aux fonctionnaires Princiers

dans tous les arrondissements de la Bulgarie, et les instructions qui leur sont adressées sont toujours rédigées dans un but d'apaisement.

Le Gouvernement Princier n'a pas manqué de se montrer sévère à l'égard de ceux de ses Agents qui n'étaient pas entrés dans ses vues.

Son Altesse le Prince Alexandre, mon auguste Maître, qui a pris particulièrement a cœur de voir aboutir, conformément à ses désirs, cette importante question d'assimilation, s'est occupé assidûment des mesures à prendre pour en assurer la plus prompte solution.

Nous etions donc en droit d'espérer, qu'en persévérant avec ardeur dans cette ligne de conduite, nous arriverions peu à peu à établir la concorde à faire naître la tolérance dans les relations de nos habitants d'origines différentes.

En présence de l'agitation qui se propage et augmente chaque jour à nos frontières sud-ouest, nous craignons sérieusement que notre œuvre de pacification soit compromise, que nos exhortations ne soient pas écoutées par suite des sentiments d'indignation que font naître les récits des malheureux fugitifs.

Le Gouvernement Princier a cru de son devoir d'appeler l'attention des Grandes Puissances sur un si triste état de choses et leur signaler les dangers qui pourraient en être la conséquence.

Je vous prie, M. l'Agent, de vouloir bien communiquer à votre Gouvernement les inquiétudes pour le présent, et les craintes pour l'avenir, que fait naître pour le Gouvernement Princier la situation malheureuse des populations Chrétiennes de la Macédoine.

Agréez, &c.

(Signé) N. S. STOITCHOFF.

Inclosure 2 in No. 20.

Résume des informations parvenues du Gouvernement Bulgare sur les actes de Brigandage commis en Macédoine pendant le courant de l'Année 1880.

AVANT d'aborder le détail des faits, quelques mots d'explications sont nécessaires pour faire comprendre l'origine du brigandage dont souffrent si douloureusement les populations Chrétiennes de la Macédoine, les causes qui contribuent à le développer et les motifs auxquels ils font attribuer l'inertie des autorités Ottomanes.

Les districts occidentaux de la Macédoine ont de tout temps été exposés aux déprédations de bandes de pillards Albanais qui font de ce "tchetas" une véritable profession. Mais depuis la conclusion de la paix, leurs incursions ont pris une extention alarmante. L'effectif de chaque bande s'est accru, ce qui a permis aux chefs d'étendre le cercle de leurs opérations, et en même temps il s'est formé un nombre considérable de bandes nouvelles.

La sécurité disparaissant, le commerce aussi, et par une conséquence naturelle les difficultés de la vie augmentant, il en est résulté que beaucoup d'individus n'ont vu d'autre moyen d'échapper à la misère qu'en se joignant aux bandits. Les Turcs émigrés pendant la guerre et rentrés depuis (Mukadjirs) ont fourni surtout de nombreuses recrues aux bandes. Il va sans dire que c'est sur le malheureux cultivateur que retombe tout le poids de cette situation.

Quel rôle joue l'Administration Turque dans ce mouvement d'anarchie qui se propage avec une rapidité effrayante?

Plusieurs hauts fonctionnaires ont des parents et des amis parmi les fauteurs de désordres qui garantissent leur impunité; d'autres, déplorant ces excès, n'osent cependant en tenter la répression; ils redoutent l'impopularité, les rancunes de leurs coreligionnaires et les dénonciations dont ils deviendraient l'objet; d'autres enfin, au su de tout le monde, sont des protecteurs avérés des bandits, presque leurs commanditaires. Quant à leurs agents, ils trouvent que la connivence, d'ailleurs d'accord avec leurs sympathies, est plus lucrative que l'accomplissement du devoir sous un Gouvernement qui ne les paie pas suffisamment. On peut même dire de quelques-uns de ces agents, les Poliaks par exemple; qu'ils sont de véritables et zélés collaborateurs des bandits.

On vient de voir que les bandes se recrutaient en grande partie d'émigrés Musulmans rentrés après la paix. C'est à cette catégorie d'individus, animés d'un esprit de vengeance doublée de fanatisme, qu'il faut attribuer le caractère de férocité que prend le brigandage dans de certains moments et en certains lieux. Ce sentiment de haine poussé presque jusqu'à la folie peut seul expliquer l'extravagance de quelques-uns des forfaits mentionnés ci-après.

Il paraît invraisemblable au premier abord que des meurtriers, quelqu'endurcis qu'on les suppose, après avoir égorgé leur victime, la mutile et la mette presque en

morceaux. Les faits ne sont cependant et malheureusement que trop vrais et trop communs:

Districts de Krouchovo (Krutchevo) et Kitchevo.

Les principaux chefs de bande sont:—

Djemo Yasliosk (Djemil Fozli-oglou), de Kruchevo.
Nouri Mustafa, du village de Salp.
Ruchid Imrazoglou, de Krouchevo.
Selim, du village de Zaetz.
Baffir, du village de Baltchuchta.
Suli Tufektchi, du village de Débretche.
Alio Ouzeiro, du village de Sarbiani.
Nezir, du village de Zaetz.
Bairiam, du village de Botchentzé.
Vessel, du village de Blatzo.

Chaque bande comprend cinq à vingt personnes; elles parcourent les villages et ont pour auxiliaires les garde champêtres ("Piliaks"). Elles imposent des contributions, pillent, tuent, violent les filles et les femmes sous les yeux de leurs parents, incendient les maisons et enlèvent les bestiaux sans que jamais les autorités du pays les inquiètent; d'ailleurs, lorsque des plaintes sont faites et que les bandits en ont connaissance, les plaignants sont impitoyablement massacrés.

Le 24 Mars, 1880, des Turcs du village de Zniase incendient l'église de Torün; sont tués, Elia Steianoff, du village de Rozitchine; Bogin Pavlef, du village de Belitza, tué a Boukovo; Velianof, du village de Kitchevo; le même jour, pillage du couvent de Ste. Maria à Pretche, pillage et incendie de l'église du village de Yogol.

Le 6 Avril, Avram Kiprof, du village de Popovetz est tué et son moulin à foulon saccagé.

Vers la même époque Ibrahim et Kerim, du village de Papuadichtu, tuent Jové Milenkof à Kossovo et incendient deux maisons.

La bande de Djemil fait payer au Pope Zdravé, du village de Guadchnitza, pour sauver les femmes de ses deux fils 2,000 piastres; trois jours plus tard la bande revient et les deux femmes sont violées.

Le 15 Avril, au village d'Osson, des Turcs ont pillé les nommés Vasso et Maté, les ont d'abord rossés de coups, puis les ont tués pour s'emparer de £ T. 22.

Le 15 Avril, près de Lakvitza des Turcs s'emparent d'un Bulgare, l'attachent à un arbre, et le prenant pour cible, [*]

Le 20 Avril. Les deux fils de George, du village de Zdounie, sont brûlés vifs dans une grange; 300 moutons sont enlevés.

Le 13 Mai. Au village de Dobrenovetz (Kitchevo) la femme de Nikola Moysof est violée, le mari rossé de coups.

Le 13 Mai. Une bande partie de Dolni Debré parcourt les villages de Boukoitchani, Kolari, Zaiatz, et Batchichta, et enlève 2,950 moutons. Les mêmes bandits assassinent à Boukoitchani le nommé Bilbila, le 17 Août, et brûlent sa maison.

Le 19 Mai la bande de Debré enlève les bestiaux du village de Lootchani.

Le 30 Mai. Au village de Jahoritz une bande impose aux habitants une contribution de 28,000 piastres. Une nommé Tzovetan, soupçonné de cacher son argent, est assommé à coups de bâton et tué.

Le 31 Mai. En présence de tous les habitants du village de Lokvitza, le chef de bande Djemil, tua Stolé Naoumof et jeta son corps aux chiens.

Le 5 Juin. La même bande prend à Damian-Kehaia, du village de Galitchnik, 18 chevaux, 3,000 moutons, et tue deux bergers.

Ce village avait subi l'année précédente plusieurs des brigands dans lesquelles avaient été tués: Alexi Georgief, Evgène Avramof, Arso Ivanof, Kuzman Teodorof, Stoyan Pavlof, Avram Damianof. La ferme de Todor Kehaya avait été pillée, 19 chevaux et 2,300 moutons enlevés, ses deux fils et trois bergers tués.

Le 5 Juin suivant, le même enlève la femme de Nikolo Radef, du village de Debitch, après avoir rossé de coups le père et le fils.

Le 9 Juin. La bande du même Djemil, après avoir torturé le Pope Carpeta, du village Soknitza (Kitchevo) pour lui arracher 150 Medjediés en argent, viole sa fille âgée seulement de 11 ans, qui succombe aux suites de ces violences.

Le même jour une bande de Debré envahit le village de Invantchitze (Kitchevo), d'où elle enlève 300 moutons.

* Remainder of sentence illegible in MS.

Le 10 Août. Au village de Golitchnika les Turcs tuent le fils de Hadji Simova po lui prendre son cheval.

Le 13 Août. Dans les environs des Maorosko, deux Albanais, ——— et Rusmen, assassinent les nommés Kelia, du village de Melnitchani, et Nestore Koytcheschi, du village de Golitchnika.

Le même jour, les mêmes bandits, près de Kolendoritza enlèvent 120 moutons à Koradja Nikof et Filip Kristof, du village de Golitchnika, et deux bergers, et près de la montagne de Tcherkez volent encore trois chevaux à Nika Stoyanoff.

Le 15 Août. Halim Peka et Kerim, du village de Zayatz, près de la montagne de Kolenderiza, enlèvent quinze moutons et trois chevaux et tuent le berger Spasse Stoykof du village de Koumanovsko.

Le 24 Août. A. Midinitzi, la bande de Debré pille le village, assassine les nommés Jean et Kurafilia Stanef, Simion et Petre Boyof, Stoyan Guinof, et incendient cinq maisons.

Le 15 Août. La bande de Rouchan Ibrahim attaque le village de Jagol, brûle les maisons de Kofileta de Mitré et de Stonoeff, assassine Mitan Josef et le berger Petre Stoykof et enlève 180 moutons.

Le 17 Août. Des bandits commandés par Nezir et Banti mettent à contribution de 2,500 piastres, tuent George Mitrof et Petre Stanef et violent devant leurs parents deux jeunes filles, Mitann Bibof et Stefana Netkena.

Les habitants se plaignent aux autorités qui leur conseillent de se soumettre aux exigences des chefs de bande et disent qu'il est impossible de leur porter secours.

Le 28 Août. Les mêmes bandits pénètrent dans le village de Jagol Dolentzi, commencent le pillage par la maison de la veuve Petkovitza, l'assassine parce qu'elle appelait au secours sans se laisser émouvoir par les cris de ses petits enfants. Ils continuent ensuite le pillage de chaque maison, et emportent du village 3,800 piastres.

Le 4 Septembre. Au village de Galischika, Hassam Hugioglu de Zayatz et Rusmin volent 500 moutons à Donko Nicolski et Yanko, après avoir maltraité les bergers.

Le 8 Septembre à Lazarovopolé, des Albanais tuent le neveu de Marko Kehaya, blessent trois de ces bergers et enlèvent 350 moutons.

Le même jour, les mêmes bandits s'emparent près de la montagne Golyak de soixante-trois chevaux chargés de blé et tuent un des conducteurs.

Le 12 Septembre. Des Turcs de Teretnik et de Konetchtitza, volent 100 moutons à Ylia Kronkof, du village de Labanitza.

Le 15 Septembre. Des Turcs du village Kobountzi, pillent plusieurs maisons du village de Dordi et enlèvent vingt mulets.

Dans le cours des mois d'Août, Septembre, et Octobre, le village de Porctché, outre son couvent brûlé, a été le théâtre de trente-huit assassinats, de pillages incessants accompagnés de viols de filles et de femmes.

Le 17 Septembre. Au village de Yahoretz, les nommés Nezir-Hadjeoglou et Bekir, accompagnés d'hommes de leur bande, violent deux femmes, trois filles, se font payer 2,000 piastres par les habitants, et enlèvent 500 moutons.

Quelques jours après, les mêmes bandits volent 2,000 piastres au village de Knéchino, enlèvent la fille de Stoyko Tafanka au village de Prenko, volent à Vassile Primator £ T. 10.

Le 19 Septembre, à Lovtchani, le Maire (Moukhtar) est attaqué et pillé près du village par des Turcs; emmené par eux, on ne sait ce qu'il est devenu depuis.

Le 20 Septembre. Au village de Lazarovopolé 550 moutons sont enlevés et trois hommes tués par des Turcs.

Le 2 Octobre. Pillage de la métairie communale du village Velio Brdo; 1,800 moutons enlevés.

District de Prilep.

Le 11 Mai. Au village de Hatino Djemil avec sa bande entre chez Mitre. Sa femme et sa fille sont violées, Mitre tué. Les deux femmes vont ensuite porter plainte à Prilep; Djemil les rencontre et enlève la fille.

Le 18 Juillet. Deux jeunes filles sont enlevées au village de Precentitah, et ne sont rendues à leurs parents que contre une rançon de £ T. 130.

Le 14 Septembre. Des habitants de Doupna s'étaient rendus près de deux poliaks (garde champêtres) de Debré, nommés Abdi et Ibrahim, pour traiter de la vente d'une certaine quantité de bétail. Les poliaks les tourmentaient depuis longtemps pour les faire consentir à cette vente. Le prix fut convenu et payé séance tenante. En rentrant chez eux ils furent attaqués et volés. Ils portèrent plainte et accusèrent les poliaks. L'autorité envoya des gendarmes; mais les gendarmes faisant cause commune avec les

poliaks envahirent le village et en maltraitèrent les habitants sous prétexte qu'ils avaient calomnié les poliaks.

Le 10 Octobre. Des malfaiteurs attaquent la maison de Damiano Petrof. Il tire un coup de fusil pour les effrayer. Aussitôt après arrive un lieutenant de zaptiés (gendarmes) qui ne s'occupe nullement de poursuivre les malfaiteurs, mais injurie et menace petrof, parce qu'il possède un fusil et s'empare de l'arme.

Le 11 Octobre. Au village de Kirltzi, des Turcs entrent chez un individu qu'ils soupçonnent d'avoir de l'argent, le rossent de coups, et lui arrachent vingt-sept medjidiés en argent. L'individu est mort des suites des coups et blessures.

Le même jour, dans la ville même de Prilep, Stoyon Arlof est assommé par des Turcs, qui crient aux spectateurs: "Voilà comment on traite les Giaours."

Les habitants des villages de Strovi Gostirojna, Sekirtzi, et Slepte, après avoir subi des impositions s'élevant à £ T. 300 de la part de Yevzi, Tairoglou, se plaignent à l'autorité. Avec le produit des impositions Yevzi non seulement achète son impunir [*sic*] mais se fait nommer poliak (garde-champêtre).

District de Kastoria.

Mois de Septembre. Les poliaks Suleiman et Ahmed avec d'autres bandits ont détruit en partie le village de Carmani; sur cinquante maisons, il n'en reste que vingt.

Le 30 Octobre. Près du village de Drenatchevo, Fleristo Nicolof, et Toma Atanasof, qui se rendaient au bazar avec de chevaux chargés de blé, ont été cernés par des bandits qui leur ont volé £ T. 14, 8 medjedies, et 55 piastres, ainsi qui leurs chevaux et leur blé.

District de Negotin.

Le 5 Mai. Des soldats déserteurs pénètrent dans une maison, et après en avoir tourmenté les habitants se saisissent des jeunes filles, leurs enduisent les seins de matières grasses et y mettent le feu, afin de voir, disent-ils, comment brûle la viande de Giaour. Ils entrent ensuite dans d'autres maisons où ils renouvellent les mêmes scènes.

Le 14 Mai. Le poliak Albanais Nazir, dans le village de Kojdeni, assomme à coups de bâton le vieillard Stoyan, âgé de 85 ans. Les habitants portent plainte à l'autorité qui répond par des plaisanteries. Le poliak furieux ameute les Turcs qui attaquent les plaignants et les rossent de coups.

Le 11 Juin. Village de Rojden. Des bandits entrent dans la maison de Zlati, violent les femmes, mettent le feu à la maison, après y avoir enfermé l'aïeul âgé de près de 110 ans et des enfants en bas-âge.

District de Kailar.

Le 7 Décembre. Une caravane composée d'environ vingt négociants revenant de l'étranger avec les produits de leur négoce est arrêtée près du village de Nalbant-Reni par une bande de vingt-trois malfaiteurs portant des uniformes. Les voyageurs sont cernés, fouillés, et dépouillés de ce qu'ils possèdent.

Les bandits ont enlevé:—

A George Keristof, du village de Brétchani,			£ T. 500.
A Filip Atanassof, du village de Kossinets,			£ T. 100.
A Terpka Lozarof	„	„	£ T. 15.
A Zanef	„	„	£ T. 200 et 150 medjidiés.
A Mihail Stoganoff	„	„	£ T. 80 et 20 medjidiés.
A Lambri et Kosta	„	Sabanitza,	£ T. 120 et 50 medjidiés.
A Kristo Kristof	„	„	£ T. 200 et 50 medjidiés.
A Kaisto Kiref	„	„	£ T. 253 et 50 medjidiés.
A Penda Iief	„	Kossinetz,	£ T. 80 et 40 medjidiés.
A Neno Atanasof	„	„	£ T. 30.
A Vassiláki Tzwetkof	„	„	£ T. 45 et 10 medjidiés.
A Georgi Ivanof	„	„	£ T. 52 et 10 medjidiés.
A Traiko Lazarof	„	„	£ T. 18 et 13 medjidiés.
A Ilia Atanasof	„	„	£ T. 13 et 30 medjidiés.
A Naoum Kristof	„	„	£ T. 68 et 14 medjidiés.
A Trois autres voyageurs		„	£ T. 135 et 55 medjidiés.

Les voyageurs s'étant plaints à l'autorité furent chassés honteusement et accusés de s'être volés eux-mêmes.

Contributions levées par les bandes Albanaises dans des derniers mois de 1880 :—

I. Village de Yagol—

		Piastres.
34 maisons à raison de 60 piastres	.. ..	2,040
11 „ „ 40 „	.. ..	440
4 „ „ 20 „	.. ..	80
Total	.. ..	2,560

Soit, 573 fr.

Village de Popovliani—

10 maisons à 80 piastres	.. ..	800
12 „ „ 50 „	.. ..	600
7 „ „ 30 „	.. ..	210
4 „ „ 20 „	.. ..	80
3 „ „ 15 „	.. ..	45
Total	.. ..	1,735

Soit, 381 fr.

Sur 3 maisons taxées en raison de leur aisance supposée 1,300

Soit, 286 fr.

Village Oslonci—

Sur 8 maisons taxées à 800 piastres et 300 1,700

Soit, 374 fr.

Village de Novo Selo—

4 maisons, 3 taxées à 1,200 piastres, et 1 à 500 seulement 4,100

Soit, 902 fr.

II. 17 Août. Au marché de Kitscheska, Boungoura et Secoula Groueff sont assassinés et volés de 13,000 piastres, soit 2,860 fr.

Le même jour et au même lieu les mêmes assassins, dont on ignore les noms, tuent Stoico, du village de Scarbon, et lui volent 2,000 piastres, soit 440 fr.

III. 23 Août. Trois femmes et trois jeunes filles du village d'Oslonci, conduisant au moulin du blé chargé sur les chevaux, sont rencontrées par des Albanais qui, après les avoir violées, s'emparent des chevaux et du blé.

IV. 29 Août. Nezir Cadjoski et Bayfar, de Zaiaz, pillent la maison du Pope Zveta, du village de Doupiani. Blessé grièvement, le prêtre succombe cinq jours après.

Ils emmènent la fille de Stoico Tchourloff et exigent £ T. 50 pour sa rançon (1,100 fr.) voir Kitchevo 14, 17, 20, et 25.

V. 30 Août. Au village de Vranechnietza des Turcs tuent le Valaque Mitia pour lui voler son cheval.

VI. 1er Septembre. Kior Miteta, du village de Knegino, qui portait au percepteur de l'impôt 2,000 piastres de ses contributions est assassiné par les nommés Dalip et Mehmed, envoyés à sa rencontre, croit-on, par des gendarmes, qui le savaient porteur de cette somme.

VII. 5 Septembre. Au village de Rammé Djemailikior Fazliof tue Kofileta dans sa maison parce qu'il ne voulait pas lui laisser enlever sa fille.

11 Septembre. Deux zaptiés se disant à la poursuite d'un malfaiteur nommé Mahmoud arrêtent près de Krutchani deux individus, et trouvant qu'ils ne répondaient pas convenablement à leurs questions, les assomment à coups de bâtons.

12 Mai. Des Albanais du village de Chtourovtcha tuent le nommé Zvetkoff pour s'emparer de ses deux chevaux.

Mois de Juin. Village de Slipo :

Ali bei Abdichof fait chasser les habitants, leur déclare qu'il retire la possession de leurs maisons et qu'ils ne pourront y rentrer qu'en consentant à devenir ses fermiers.

Le 26 Septembre. Au village de Mavrovo une bande de Derbe enlève 1,500 moutons.

District de Velesse (Kuprulu).

7 Juillet. Trois bergers : Vlia Atanasovia, Courmana, et Petra paissaient leurs moutons près de Gornoraetz. Ils sont abordés par des Turcs de Drenovo qui, sans raison, les ont maltraités, se sont emparés de Vlia, l'ont égorgé et mis en pièces. La mère en apprenant ce crime, est devenue folle.

25 Août. Au village de Gornoraetz, Mehmed Perlas conteste à Grégoire Tordanoff la possession de son champ, et grâce à connivence de l'autorité, s'empare du champ, fait emprisonner Yordanoff et profite de son absence pour mettre le feu à sa maison. Plusieurs chaumières voisines sont brûlées en même temps.

10 Octobre. Au village de Teoplitcha des zaptiés (gendarmes) pénètrent chez Igna Spassova, qu'ils soupçonnent d'être Comitadji (voir district Ochrida No. 16).

Ils découvrent un fusil, pensent que c'est une preuve suffisante et le conduisent en prison, où on le tourmente pour lui exacter des aveux et les noms de ses complices. D'autres habitants furent encore arrêtés—Golemo Radobil, Meato Tzavevitz Mramor, &c., parce qu'ils étaient en relations d'amitié avec Spassova.

Ce fait se reproduit à chaque instant sur tous les points de la Macédoine et c'est grâce à cette vague accusation de Comitadji que les prisons des districts s'emplissent de malheureux contre lesquels n'existe aucune charge sérieuse.

A Velesse l'autorité a tellement abusé de ce moyen que pour se débarrasser du trop plein des prisons elle a dû évacuer une partie des prisonniers sur Salonique, d'où ils seront déportés en Asie Mineure.

D'autres fois, des gens sont accusés de donner refuge à des bandits ; ils ne peuvent s'affranchir de cette accusation qu'en donnant des gratifications aux zaptiés, sinon ils sont conduits en prison.

A Lapsista, le 25 Novembre, 160 personnes ont été arrêtées pour ce motif imaginaire.

District de Bitolia (Monastir).

Mois de Mai. Une bande attaque le village de Stradjove, incendie avec du pétrole quatre maisons, y jette vivants quatre habitants. Elle brûle ensuite le village de Diavato, emmène l'un des habitants, Christo Doulaptchieva, et ne le relâche qu'au bout de vingt jours moyennant £ T. 10, soit 2,200 fr.

1er Juin. Six "kiradjio" (colporteurs), originaires de village du Koukourantcha, passaient près du "koula" (tour de garde) du défilé Boschteritza.

Les gardiens de la tour les arrêtent et les dépouillent.

8 Juillet. Village de Tirovo (Trnovo), Kole Traiskoff est pillé, mis tout nu, torturé avec des baïonnettes de pistolet rougies au feu. Ahmed Bamia et Malich Curserdar commandaient ceux qui exécutaient ces atrocités.

10 Septembre. Des Turcs enlèvent du village de Skotchrir trois habitants qu'ils emmènent pour les rançonner. L'un est relâché moyennant £ T. 150, soit environ 3,400 fr.

13 Septembre. Les fils de Dervich Aga interceptent la voie à Natchks et imposent un droit de circulation aux passants. Le 20 du même mois ils pillent les métairies de ce village, et enlèvent tout le bétail.

Vers la même époque Navum Pavloff, du village de Trn, est attaqué chez lui ; sa maison est brûlée, son frère est tué.

Vers la même époque, une bande de Debre a capturé au village de Heino 400 moutons.

22 Décembre. Village d'Iveni. Le poliak Selim, de sa propre autorité, impose une contribution aux habitants, s'empare d'une jeune fille et la viole. Des contributions sont également imposées aux villages de Diviatza et Poustureka.

District d'Ochrida.

Premiers jours d'Avril. Akif Keur enlève dans le village de Velichta une jeune fille de 17 ans, Zaralina.

8 Juin. Des Teherkess du village St. Théodor pillent le village de Leskovatz.

5 Juillet. Village de Karadartzi. Des Turcs mettent le feu à la maison de Mihel Abroff.

9 Juillet. Au village de Krouchitza des Turcs entrent chez un vieille femme nommée Petkovitva, violent sa fille, tuent la mère qui veut essayer de la défendre.

27 Juillet. Une bande de Debre attaque la metairie communale de Gorna Bulitza, et enlève 2,000 moutons, et 200 bœufs. Elle pille ensuite les métairies des villages de Vetchani et de Tach Meuronitcha.

27 Juillet. Au village de Pletver le fils de Atchemeff est enlevé pour obtenir du père une rançon.

La rançon n'ayant pu être payée, l'enfant a été battu, violé, et renvoyé mourant. Il a expiré au bout de quelques jours.

7 Août. Dans la ville même d'Ochrida, le traiteur Yovantche est tué par des Turcs sous les yeux du Caimacam, qui laisse faire.

28 Août. Village de Gapoldiptzi. Une bande impose aux habitants une contribution de 1,500 piastres, soit environ 300 fr. payable en trois jours. Après paiement de cette somme, les bandits, non satisfaits, ont enlevé la fille de Noveslata.

25 Août. Le village de Nertchani est incendié, une femme tuée; quatre habitants sont emmenés par les incendiaries et l'on n'a pu retrouver leurs traces.

Mois de Septembre. Vingt-cinq Bulgares du village de Kouratiza sont faits prisonniers et emmenés par une bande de Debre. Ceux qui ont pu payer une rançon ont été relâchés. Les autres n'ont pas reparu.

6 Septembre. Deux Turcs du village de Touris assassinent le villageois Drougof parce qu'il ne les salue pas.

6 Septembre. Dans les environs d'Ochrida le colporteur Pirgan, de Prilep, se voit enlever son cheval chargé de marchandises et on lui vole £ T. 70.

Octobre. Des bandits de Debre enlèvent au village de Sevrani 180 moutons, tuent tous les habitants; au village de Peoke ils enlèvent trois personnes comme otages; l'un est relâché moyennant rançon les deux autres n'ont pas reparu.

3 Novembre. Dans la ville même d'Ochrida, quartier Valaque Papa Stefanof, à l'occasion de son mariage, avait invité un certain nombre de personnes. Au milieu du repas un coup de feu part du dehors et deux femmes tombent mortellement blessées.

18 Novembre. Les marchands Mauda Stojeffé et Fakia Mitcheff, du village Psoder; sont attaqués près du village de Presnitza et dépouillés de £ T. 46, et de leurs chevaux chargés de marchandises.

Le même jour et au même endroit deux colporteurs des villages de Kutitza et Bravitza (district de Kortchain), revenant de Constantinople sont dépouillés de £ T. 350 et de deux mulets chargés de marchandises.

Dans la première quinzaine d'Août le Caïmacam (Préfet) d'Ochrida demande quelques troupes pour faire cesser le brigandage.

On lui envoie des Bachi-Bouzouks qu'il cantonne au village de Prespan. Il n'en résulte bien entendu que de nouvelles vexations pour les habitants. Un jour ils rencontrent sur la montagne d'Istok le nommé Slavo Tani, chassant et muni d'un port d'armes; le maltraitent en le qualifiant de Comitadji (c'est le mot qu'on jette à tout propos à ceux qu'on accuse de faire partie des comités conspirateurs). Ils le poursuivent, rencontrent en route des bergers qu'ils traitent aussi de Comitadjis, tirent sur eux et en tuent un.

Arrondissement de Chtip (Istip).

Mois d'Août. Au village d'Oumiartzi, des bandits massacrent Antoine Gelescoff et sa femme; à Vrabnitza Kitza, sa femme et ses enfants, ainsi que Arssé, sont assassinés par les mêmes.

Dans le même mois, Arça Rountef et sa femme, au village de Novo Selo, sont rencontrés par des soldats Turcs; l'homme est lié à un arbre et sa femme violée sous ses yeux. Trois jours après la femme mourait des suites des violences qu'elle avait subies.

2 Février, 1881. Le journal "La Turquie" dit que trente Bulgares amenés de Salonique par le dernier bateau seront envoyés dans les prisons d'Asie Mineure comme brigands; or, ces gens, loin d'être des malfaiteurs, sont des victimes.

No. 21.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received March 7.)

(No. 13.)

Sophia, February 14, 1881.

My Lord,

IN the Circular which M. Stoitchoff addressed to the foreign Agents at Sophia on the 8th instant, to announce his departure for Vienna, copy of which was inclosed in my despatch No. 9 of the 9th instant, his Excellency stated that M. Stoiloff had been appointed by the Council of Ministers to take charge of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

In consequence of the omission of all mention of the Prince of Bulgaria in this note, M. de Theilan, the German Consul-General who is the Doyen of the Corps Diplomatique had an audience of His Highness, to point out in the name of the Corps Diplomatique the irregularity which had been committed, and to suggest that M. Stoiloff should himself address a Circular to the foreign Agents, stating that he had been appointed by the Prince of Bulgaria upon the recommendation of the Council of Ministers. This course has been followed, and I have now the honour to inclose a copy of M. Stoiloff's Circular with a copy of the answer which I returned to it.

Considering the relations which exist between the Prince of Bulgaria and his Ministers, it appears to me to be desirable for the foreign Agents to support His Highness as far as they properly could in any question that might arise between His Highness and his

Council of Ministers, and I had, therefore, no hesitation in cordially agreeing to M. de Thielan's suggestion, that he should make a representation to His Highness on the subject of the irregularity in the form of the announcement of M. Stoiloff's appointment.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure 1 in No. 21.

M. Stoiloff to Mr. Lascelles.

Sophia, le 11 Février, 1881.

M. l'Agent,

M. STOITCHOFF, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, ayant quitté Sophia pour prendre part comme Premier Délégué de la Bulgarie à la Commission de Chemins de Fer à Vienne, j'ai l'honneur de vous informer que Son Altesse le Prince mon auguste Maître, sur l'avis du Conseil des Ministres, à daigné me charger pendant l'absence du titulaire de la gestion du Ministère des Affaires Etrangères.

Étant entré dans l'exercice de ces fonctions, je vous prie d'être persuadé, M. l'Agent, que de ma part je ne négligerai rien pour maintenir les relations amicales et de bonne entente si heureusement établies entre le Gouvernement Princier et MM. les Agents étrangers.

Je saisis, &c.

(Signé) C. STOILOFF.

Inclosure 2 in No. 21.

Mr. Lascelles to M. Stoiloff.

Sophia, le 12 Février, 1881.

M. le Gérant,

J'AI l'honneur d'accuser réception de la note que vous avez bien voulu m'adresser pour m'informer que Son Altesse le Prince avait daigné vous charger de la gestion du Ministère des Affaires Etrangères pendant l'absence de M. Stoitchoff.

Soyez persuadé, M. le Gerant, que je ne négligerai rien pour maintenir et consolider les bonnes relations qui ont toujours subsisté entre l'Agence de Sa Majesté et le Gouvernement de Son Altesse.

En me félicitant de me trouver en communication officielle avec vous, je vous prie, &c.

(Signé) F. C. LASCELLES.

No. 22.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received March 7.)

(No. 14. Confidential.)

Sophia, February 23, 1881.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of the 7th instant, I have the honour to report that all the information which I have been able to obtain tends to contradict the assertion made to Mr. Gould by the Servian Government of the existence of a secret understanding between Bulgaria and Greece.

M. Stoitchoff has assured me that even in the case of a war breaking out between Turkey and Greece, Bulgaria would remain quiet. I reminded his Excellency that M. Zancoff had frequently told me that although the Principality desired to remain at peace, the outbreak of a war between Turkey and Greece would cause such an excitement in the country that it would be impossible for the Government to resist the popular feeling. M. Stoitchoff replied that the popular feeling had become much more tranquil, and that there was not the slightest danger of the Principality going to war to help the Greeks. I then asked his Excellency whether it was not probable that in the event of war breaking out there would be a rising of the Bulgarians in Macedonia against the Turks, and, in that case, whether it would not be difficult for the Principality not to take an active part. M. Stoitchoff said that there would no doubt be some individuals who would join a rising in Macedonia, but he did not think that they would be very numerous, and they would not receive the support of the Bulgarian Government.

I had subsequently an interview with the Prince of Bulgaria, in which His Highness' language was very similar to that held to me by M. Stoitchoff. His Highness said that the hostility between the Bulgarians and the Greeks was so strong that there was not the slightest probability of any movement taking place in the Principality in favour of Greece. A rising in Macedonia would not be likely to create any strong feeling in Bulgaria, as it would be felt that it was fomented by the Greeks for their own interests. If a rising were to take place in Eastern Roumelia it would be a different matter, and it would be difficult to calm the excitement which such a rising would cause. His Highness could assure me that the Principality desired to remain quiet. She was not in a position to go to war, and had no intention of doing so. There were, however, certain circumstances which would render war inevitable; and His Highness repeated to me what he had said to me in the autumn, as reported in my despatch No. 167 of the 1st November last, that he would consider the occupation of the Balkans as a declaration of war.

I told His Highness that I was sure that the assurances which he had given me with regard to Macedonia would be received with satisfaction by Her Majesty's Government, more especially as a report had reached your Lordship of the existence of a secret understanding between Bulgaria and Greece.

The Prince replied that M. Byzantios, the late Greek Agent and Consul-General, had one day called upon him and suggested the advisability of such an understanding being come to. His Highness at once asked M. Byzantios if he had received instructions from the Greek Government to make such a proposal, and on receiving a reply in the negative, His Highness had said that he could not entertain it unless made officially. Nothing further had passed on the subject, and no understanding had been come to.

In connection with this subject I may mention that Nihad Pasha has informed me, confidentially, that he had received instructions from the Porte to report upon the probable attitude of the Bulgarian Government in case of war breaking out between Turkey and Greece, and that he has replied that he is convinced that the Bulgarian Government are sincere in their declarations of peace. Nihad Pasha has also pointed out to me that no military preparations had been made by the Principality; and that even if she wished to take part in the war it would be impossible for her to render any appreciable assistance in Macedonia, as it would be necessary for her to employ nearly the whole of her army in providing for the defence of the frontier. Calculating the whole strength of the Bulgarian army at 14,000 men, which his Excellency thought would be rather over than under the mark, he was convinced that 6,000 men was the very utmost that the Principality could employ in offensive operations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 23.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received March 7.)

(No. 30.)
My Lord, *Salonica, February 24, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copies of two letters which I have received from Mr. H. Suter, who is engaged in mining operations in the district of Cassandra.

I have brought under the notice of Attif Pasha, the Military Governor of Salonica, the substance of the one referring to Mr. Suter's personal safety, whereupon his Excellency promised to send a guard of twenty soldiers to be stationed at the village of Isvor; and further, to make inquiries with regard to the alleged connection of Dimitri Apostoloudi with the lawless proceedings of his brother Giorgio, and said that, if it is really the case that such a connection does exist, he will order the former to be removed to Salonica.

As regards the dismissing of the Christian auxiliary police force, mentioned in Mr. Suter's second letter, Attif Pasha, in anwer to my inquiries on the subject, told me that this measure has been applied to all villages and denominations indiscriminately, for the reason that the increase of the military force in the Vilayet of Salonica renders the assistance of these auxiliaries no longer necessary; and with the object of maintaining tranquillity in the district of Cassandra, he has sent two battalions of infantry, one to be stationed at Polyghero, and the other to be distributed at Sikia, Stavros, Erysso, and other landing-places on the promontories of Cassandra, Longos, and Mount Athos.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 23.

Mr. Suter to Consul-General Blunt.

Sir, *Isvor, February 19, 1881.*

I BEG to inform you that the five soldiers I had here by permission of Shemshedin Effendi, the Major of Polyghero, were ordered away by the Yuz-Bashi of Larigova, Osman Effendi, this evening, so that there is not a single soldier in this village for my protection against brigands, which are, from all accounts, numerous.

It is a well-known fact that the brigand Giorgio Apostoloudos is in the habit of coming to the house of his brother Dimitri in this village, where he receives food and shelter from him.

Giorgio Apostoloudos is forming a band of brigands, and has already collected six followers, but as yet they have no arms, and are waiting for Giorgio's brother to smuggle Martini rifles from Salonica or Greece.

Apostoloudos' brother has taken great exception to my working the mines here, as it seems that he has been trying to get another Company to work them, and as he is a man of a very bad character, I have suspicions that he will set his brother to do me mischief.

If the Government will guarantee that no harm will befall them, I have reliable witnesses who will prove Apostoloudos' complicity with the brigands this year and last.

It will be impossible for British subjects soon to live in the interior, owing to the intrigues of one or two individuals such as this Apostoloudos.

I would beg, Sir, that you request the authorities to allow a sufficient guard to be stationed at Isvor, or else to allow me to have an armed force at my own expense.

The business I am carrying on will be a source of revenue to the Government, and I ought to receive protection.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. SUTER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 23.

Mr. Suter to Consul-General Blunt.

Sir, *Isvor, February 19, 1881.*

THE Christian Sirdars, or assistant police, have lately been deprived of the arms issued to them by the Turkish Government, and since then three bands of brigands have appeared in this district.

The general opinion is that the Government has disarmed the Christian police owing to the present state of affairs between Turkey and Greece.

From what I can learn, however, the Christians who have had arms issued to them have always proved loyal to the Government, and I have heard of no instance where the confidence placed in them by the Government has been abused. Indeed, many of these Christian police, especially Captain Varsili Cara-Andonis, of Novo-Sello, were the inveterate foes of brigands, and since Varsili was made Captain of Sirdars, brigands were not heard of for many months.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. SUTER.

No. 24.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received March 7.)

E
(No. 151.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 1, 1881.*

THE day following my conversation with his Excellency Assim Pasha, reported to your Lordship in my despatch No. 138 of the 24th ultimo, Mr. Stephen called unofficially on his Excellency for the purpose of giving him additional information as to the improved state of things in Roumelia, and also in order to meet, from his personal knowledge, the difficulties which Assim Pasha had quoted to me as hindering the sanction of particular appointments by the Sublime Porte.

The conversation took much the same turn as it had done with me, but Mr. Stephen gathered the impression that his Excellency had thought over what I had urged on him the day before, and was somewhat more disposed to recommend a course of conciliation.

Nevertheless, I do not infer from Mr. Stephen's Report that there is any chance of the Porte taking a broad view, and endeavouring at this crisis to conciliate Eastern Roumelia by a policy of conciliation, and by making, as it were, a new departure.

Indeed, since I wrote my last despatch, another striking, though in itself unimportant, instance has occurred, illustrating the blindness of the Sublime Porte as to their own interests in dealing with the Christian States and Provinces. The Bulgarian Agent has informed my colleagues and myself, with some indignation, that while hitherto he carried on his business here as Agent with the Sublime Porte itself and the Foreign Minister, a Department had been created at the Sublime Porte for the transaction of the business of the "tributary provinces," and that Bulgaria, which was not a province, but a tributary Principality, had now been included in the class of tributary provinces, like Eastern Roumelia, Crete, and Samos.

Precedents, he added, were entirely opposed to such a course. Servia and Roumania, before their independence, had dealt direct with the Foreign Minister.

All my colleagues take the view, that the Sublime Porte is quite wrong in this matter, and we shall all inform the Foreign Minister that we take this view, but I quote the incident to your Lordship as an example how the Porte court unnecessary defeats and difficulties in their treatment of the small States.

M. Balabanow, the Bulgarian Agent, is a very conciliatory man, and, as I understand, has in all cases sought to smooth down the various points of difference between the Turkish Government and the Principality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 25.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 8, 5·40 P.M.)

(No. 4.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, March* 8, 1881, 2·40 P.M.

STRONG efforts are being made by the party of action to force the Governor-General to issue at once a Decree organizing the reserves and placing them under the command and supervision of officers chosen among the Notables of the locality, who will have the power of inflicting severe penalties in case of absence from drill.

As the effect of this measure would be to revive political passions, and practically to confirm and extend power previously exercised by Gymnastic Societies, I have thought it right to earnestly represent to Aleko Pasha the grave dangers it may entail, and to strongly urge him not to sign the Decree.

His Excellency has promised to reconsider the matter, and I have hopes of his resisting pressure put upon him.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 26.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 159.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 8, 1881, 5·45 P.M.

YOUR despatch No. 140 of the 24th February: Ahmed Tefik.

I entirely approve Vice-Consul Anamissaki's conduct. He should refuse to give up trunk, and keep it until he has safe opportunity of sending it to Her Majesty's Embassy for delivery to the family of Ahmed Tefik.

You should call attention of the Porte to objectionable tone of Governor's letter, and request that he be reprimanded and instructed not to persist in unjustifiable demand which he made on Vice-Consul.

No. 27.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 9.)

(No. 31. Political.)
My Lord, *Salonica, February* 28, 1881.

WITH reference to the telegram I had the honour to send yesterday morning to your Lordship relative to the despatch of troops to Uskup, I transmit herewith copy of a letter which I have received from a good source, giving some further information on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 27.

Mr. ——— *to Consul-General Blunt.*

Sir, *Salonica, February* 28, 1881.

WITH reference to my information concerning the sudden dispatch of troops to Uskup, I hold from a good source that the Governor of Uskup telegraphed to the Porte to acquaint it of the fact that the Albanians there, headed by their Chief, Yachar Bey, intended to make an attack and seize all the arms and ammunition deposited in the fort, amounting to more than 7,000 rifles, mostly Martini-Henrys, and several thousand cases of ammunition.

This having come to the knowledge of the League, the latter sent a counter-telegram denying the fact. It seems, however, that the Porte found reason to doubt their word, and they wisely ordered the immediate departure of six battalions and a battery of mountain guns for Uskup.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ———.

No. 28.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 82.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 9, 1881.

I TRANSMIT to you the accompanying copy of a despatch from Captain Sale* suggesting the action most likely to settle the Montenegrin Frontier question, and I have to request your Excellency to ask the Austro-Hungarian Government if they concur in the course proposed by Captain Sale.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 29.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 10.)

(No. 14.)
My Lord, *Scutari, February* 22, 1881.

IN reply to your Lordship's telegram No. 1 of the 1st instant, which I only received on my return to Albania, I have the honour to transmit herewith the copy of a note addressed to me by the Montenegrin Minister for Foreign Affairs, setting forth the reasons of the Prince's Government for holding by the thalweg of the River Boyana as the limit of a portion of the frontier of the "Dulcigno Arrangement."

Voivoda Radonich's note was forwarded to my address in England, but did not get there till after my departure; hence the delay which has arisen in my placing it before your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

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* See Part LVIII, No. 63.

Inclosure in No. 29.

M. Radonich to Mr. Kirby Green.

M. le Ministre, *Cettinjé, le $\frac{8}{20}$ Janvier*, 1881.

JE crois inutile de récapituler ici la marche des pourparlers qui ont précédés la cession de Dulcigno à la Principauté. Qu'il me soit permis de dire qu'en adhérant à cette combinaison le Monténégro avait tout lieu d'espérer que la ligne Granville serait définitive, et que les Grandes Puissances imposeraient son acceptation à Constantinople.

Or, nous venons d'apprendre que quelques Cabinets Européens seraient disposés à appuyer le nouveau tracé proposé par le Commissaire Ottoman pour la délimitation du Monténégro de la frontière entre le Lac de Scutari et la mer.

Le Prince Nicholas, mon auguste Maître, est fermement convaincu que les Puissances, en donnant leur adhésion au noveau projet Turc, ne pouvaient avoir en vue de porter une grave atteinte aux intérêts de la Principauté. Pénétré de cette conviction, Son Altesse me charge de vous éclairer, M. le Chargé d'Affaires, sur l'importance réelle des modifications en question.

La première partie du tracé proposé par la Sublime Porte, comprise entre le Lac de Scutari et l'embouchure de la petite rivière sortant du Lac Sas, dans la Boyana, tout en présentant de graves inconvénients, pour nous, et nous privant de plusieurs positions importantes au point de vue stratégique, pourrait, à la rigueur, être accepté par le Monténégro, et cela uniquement dans le but de prouver une fois de plus la déférence du Gouvernement Princier pour les vœux émis par l'Europe.

Quant à ce qui concerne la seconde partie de ce projet, nous privant du thalweg de la Boyana, et nous aliénant complètement le cours de ce fleuve, le Monténégro ne pourrait y consentir sans léser ses intérêts les plus vitaux.

En effet, la Boyana forme la seule artère commerciale du Monténégro, et ce sont surtout les avantages qui résulteraient pour la Principauté de la possession d'une partie de son cours inférieur qui l'ont déterminé à accepter la modification de la combinaison Corti.

Sans le thalweg de la Boyana, le district de Dulcigno ne pourrait, à notre avis, former une compensation équitable pour les territoires auxquels nous avons renoncé. Ce n'est effectivement que le fait de la possession de ce thalweg qui pourrait assurer au Monténégro le libre exercice de la navigation de ce fleuve. La Boyana restant entièrement Turque, le droit de libre navigation que nous confère le Traité de Berlin deviendrait lettre-morte, car il suffirait d'un caprice des autorités de Scutari pour nous en frustrer, et vous voudrez bien vous rappeler du reste, M. le Chargé d'Affaires, que depuis 1878 nous n'avons encore pu jouir de ce droit incontestable.

En vous priant de vouloir bien porter les considérations qui précèdent à la connaissance de votre Gouvernement, j'ose espérer que le Cabinet de Londres ne pourra ne pas les apprécier à leur juste valeur, et ne refusera pas au Gouvernement Princier son bienveillant appui dans le réglement ultérieur de cette question.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) V. S. RADONICH.

No. 30.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 10.)

(No. 5.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, March* 10, 1881.

WITH reference to my telegram No. [4 of] yesterday, Governor-General formally assured me this evening that he will not consent to any organization of reserves until first and second bans of militia are formed.

Matter may now be considered temporarily arranged.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 31.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 165.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 10, 1881, 2·30 P.M.

WILL you convey to Mr. Stephen my approval of his language to Aleko Pasha respecting the proposal to organize the reserves, reported in his telegram No. 4 of the 8th instant?

No. 32.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 161. Extender.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 10, 1881.

I HAVE received from Mr. Stephen a telegram, No. 4, dated the 8th instant, stating that efforts were being made to force the Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia to issue a Decree organizing the reserves, and placing them under the command of local Notables, with the power to inflict severe penalties for absence from drill, and that, as the effect of such a measure would be to revive political passions, and practically to confirm and extend the power previously exercised by the Gymnastic Societies, he had represented to Aleko Pasha the grave dangers it might entail, and strongly urged him not to sign the Decree.

I have to request that your Excellency will convey to Mr. Stephen my approval of the representations he made to the Governor-General as reported in his above-mentioned telegram.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 33.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 11.)

(No. 17.)
My Lord, *Scutari, February* 26, 1881.

AS I understand the Montenegrin Boundary Commissioners were somewhat perplexed when they lately met here to mark out the frontier between the sea and the western shore of Lake Scutari as to the exact nature of the arrangement which had been arrived at between the Powers and the Porte concerning the frontier in that direction, I venture to suggest to your Lordship, in order that the Commissioners should not find themselves under similar difficulties when they meet again in May next, that the Ambassadors at Constantinople should be directed, if possible, to execute with the Porte a Protocol modifying that of the 18th April last, in accordance with the Memorandum transmitted by Mr. Goschen to your Lordship in his Excellency's despatch of the 9th August.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 34.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 11.)

(No. 18.)
My Lord, *Scutari, February* 26, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a despatch this day addressed by me to Mr. Goschen, explaining to his Excellency the improbability of the rumour current in Constantinople, that the Christians of Prisrend had petitioned for Austrian protection.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Inclosure in No. 34.

Mr. Kirby Green to Mr. Goschen.

Sir, *Scutari, February* 26, 1881.

WITH reference to your Excellency's telegram of yesterday, kindly replying to mine of the 21st instant, on the subject of the state of affairs in the Kossovo Vilayet, I venture to explain that I am not disposed to believed that there is any truth in the report which your Excellency mentions as current at Constantinople, that the Christians have petitioned to Austria for protection against the Mahommedan Albanians.

I have no doubt whatever that these Christians are being subjected to all kinds of persecutions, but the entire absence of all restraining influences over the Mahommedans, through the apparent expulsion of the Ottoman authorities from Prisrend, must have enforced silence on them, and convinced them that the slightest show of resistance to the proceedings of the League would prove suicidal.

Perhaps the report alluded to may have obtained at Constantinople through a distortion of the causes which are said to have brought about, during the past autumn, the murder at Prisrend of the Austrian Consular Dragoman and his wife.

Through a motive of private spite, the Dragoman and the Secretary of the Roman Catholic Bishop, and several other persons, were denounced by a native Christian to the League as having sought his signature to a petition calling for the advance of the Austrians from Novi-Bazar. All the accused were arrested and imprisoned by the Ottoman authority, then still existent, but on proving their innocence were released.

The League, to mark its dissent with his action, is said to have decreed and carried out the Dragoman's death.

I have always foreseen that the anarchy allowed to exist in North-east Albania since the assassination of Mehemet Ali Pasha would lead up to a call for Austrian intervention, but to expect that this appeal should originate with the native Christians would be to believe that despair has led them to seek immediate massacre.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 35.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 11.)

(No. 19.)
My Lord, *Scutari, February* 27, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a despatch this day addressed by me to Mr. Goschen, on the unsatisfactory state of North Albania, and the evil effects arising from the prohibition placed on the export of grain.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 35.

Mr. Kirby Green to Mr. Goschen.

Sir, *Scutari, February* 27, 1881.

WITH reference to my despatches of the 16th and 20th instant, I have the honour to add that the greatest discontent exists here concerning the utter weakness and inefficiency into which the local Courts have fallen.

The complaint is general that these Tribunals exist merely to enforce the payment of Government taxes, or to levy heavy fees wherewith to pay the salaries of the officers of the Courts.

I understand that it is contemplated by the inhabitants of Scutari to send a deputation to the Vali to represent this state of things, and to inform his Excellency that, if the Ottoman Government does not find means of paying some of its debts contracted with the mercantile body here, the consequent complete dearth of money will oblige the North Albanians to declare their inability to meet all fiscal impositions.

No fault is found with Hadji Osman Pasha, who, under most difficult circumstances,

endeavours to carry out the constant orders received from Constantinople to raise money, and at the same time to weigh as lightly as possible on a people who have been reduced to an extreme state of penury by the misfortunes of the last few years. The irritation felt is all attributed to the acts of the Supreme Government, which, even in the small matter of allowing Hadji Osman Pasha to remain of the inferior grade of Brigadier-General, is thereby considered to level a mark of ill-will and disrespect towards the North Albanians.

I have no hesitation in bearing witness to your Excellency that the change for the worse in the welfare of these people, noticeable since my first arrival in the country five years ago, is alarming. It is also disheartening, for, either from ignorance or a misconception of economic laws, the Turkish Government only appears bent upon consummating the general ruin.

As an instance, I need only state that the last grain harvest was of exceptional abundance, and more than sufficient for the consumption of the country for several years. In presence of the scarcity of money, this excess of produce ought to have proved a fortunate interposition, but it has not been allowed to be so, for the Porte has most strictly prohibited the exportation of all grain from North Albania, notwithstanding very pressing petitions from all classes, sent to Constantinople to throw purchasers upon glutted markets.

I had for a moment thought that the restriction upon the exportation of grain was connected with the state of political affairs between Turkey and Greece, but this cannot be so, as the prohibition does not go beyond Durazzo, and trade is free in Lower Albania.

About 90,000 horse-loads of grain of all kinds could easily be exported from North Albania, without enhancing prices here, as the corn-markets abroad are not at all pressed; and this would represent the introduction into North Albania of upwards of 80,000*l.*, a sum which not only would alleviate greatly the condition of the inhabitants, but would also facilitate the collection of the Imperial taxes.

If your Excellency could in any way induce the Porte to understand the advantages to be derived from the removal of its present prohibition on the exportation of grain, I can safely assert that you would not only be securing an inestimable favour for this much-tried people, but also be aiding to ameliorate the position of the Ottoman Administration with the North Albanians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 36.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 11.)

(No. 20.)
My Lord, *Scutari, February* 27, 1881.

I HAVE within the last few days been assisting some of the inhabitants of Dulcigno to obtain from the local authorities here permission to continue a trade which they had hitherto plied with other parts of the Ottoman Empire in wood purchased and cut in the North Albanian forests.

Hadji Osman Pasha, the Vali, who is a most reasonable man, has endeavoured as much as possible to follow my advice, but the orders of the Porte unfortunately oblige him to treat the Dulcigniotes not as Ottomans who have, through State exigencies, been separated from the Empire against their will, but rather as enemies to be kept at arm's length.

As a matter of policy the Turkish Government ought to try by all the means in its power, especially as it must know that Prince Nicholas faithfully observes the protecting clauses of the Treaty, to induce the Mahommedans to continue in Montenegro, instead of enticing them away or persecuting those who object to leave their homes under the full knowledge that promises of compensation and substantial subsistence will remain unfulfilled.

I fear this treatment of the Mahommedans in Montenegro will quickly dissipate the guarantee which the Porte had obtained of the Principality's future peaceable conduct through the presence in its frontier towns and districts of populations still clinging to their ancient allegiance to the Sultan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 37.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 21.)
My Lord, *Scutari, February 25, 1881.*

FROM a most trustworthy native, who has just returned from Prisrend, I learn that when about three weeks ago the Turkish Governor of the place was expelled by a Decree of the League, Said Agha, an influential native, was elected to replace him, and that a petition was telegraphed to the Porte requesting its confirmation of the appointment.

Whether this was accorded or not, Said Agha now administers the affairs of the district under the title of Pasha, and his orders are obeyed and executed by the Turkish officer in command of the two battalions of Nizams and artillery which form the garrison of Prisrend. Said Pasha provides for the subsistence of these troops.

All the other officials of the place are Albanian natives, but the Cadi was already a member of the regular legal service of the Porte, and has occupied a similar post in other localities of the Empire.

Hadji Omer Effendi, who was President of the Administrative Council whilst the Turkish Mutessarif governed, still holds the same position, and appears to enjoy equal influence with Said Pasha.

All these functionaries wear the Albanian dress, but whilst pretending to be intensely national, are in constant telegraphic communication with Constantinople. Most of them also appear to have had intimate connection with the Ottoman Government through civil appointments, or by being contractors for Government supplies

The League assembled at Prisrend directs the affairs of all the other districts and towns of the Vilayet of Kossovo, and order is fairly well maintained through an organized force of mounted police.

A letter was sent about ten days ago to Dibra by the League, directing the assemblage of 15,000 men to march on Monastir and expel the Turkish civil and military authorities. These orders of the League appear to be given more with the intention of creating alarm and uncertainty than with any belief in the possibility of their execution.

Abdullah Bey, who is a prominent member of the Janina League, has been at Prisrend for the last three weeks, and is treated with much consideration as the Representative of the Epirotes.

I have endeavoured to fathom what is the real scope or power moving the League of North-east Albania, but, like the natives who have been intimately connected with the recent wire-pulling of the Scutari League, which ended in the collapse of the resistance to the Dulcigno arrangement, I cannot divest myself of a vague belief that it is merely the result of ideas and hopes having their seat in the ignorance regarding Albanian power and strength which exists in the highest quarters at Constantinople.

I cannot perceive in all this chaos one single ray of light for the future of Albania. The men who are now leading are fanatical, ignorant, and barbarous to a degree, and belong to a district which has been excluded up to the present time from all the civilizing influences which penetrated into the Ottoman dominions after the Crimean war. Their Representatives who occasionally reach the palaces and konaks at Constantinople have raised exaggerated conceptions of their strength, and obtained encouragement to boast of reconquering for the Sultan all that was conceded by the Treaty of Berlin.

I am assured by my native informant that the League seriously talks of attacking in the coming spring at one and the same time Greece, Servia, and Montenegro. The Porte might avail itself of the telegraph wires which are still allowed to connect it with the League to convince it of the folly of these plans.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 38.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 32.)
My Lord, *Salonica, March 1, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, extracts from two letters which I have received from Monastir and Uscup on the subject of Albanian affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 38.

Extract from a Letter from Monastir.

(Translation.) *February 25, 1881.*

HAVING a safe opportunity to write to you, I hasten to inform you that the Albanians of Dibra have dismissed their Mutessarif (Governor), Mehmed Bey.

The reason is this:—

A certain Abdul Bey recently went to Dibra to discuss the steps which the Albanians should take to obtain their independence, that is to say, that all Albanians should be united and have self-government.

After remaining some days at Dibra, Abdul Bey left for Prisrend, but hearing on the way that emissaries had been put to assassinate him, he returned and caused the Governor to be turned out of the province. The Albanians of Dibra are divided into two parties, one for and the other against the League, and there is, in consequence, great alarm and agitation in the province, and the "assra" (market-place) is shut up.

Inclosure 2 in No. 38.

Extract from a Letter from Uscup.

Le Février 27, 1881, 11 P.M.

EN réponse à votre lettre par laquelle vous me demandez des minutieux renseignements sur le mouvement soudain des troupes, je m'empresse de vous informer que ce soir vers 4 heures arriva un train extraordinaire portant des troupes régulières, après quinze minutes arriva un second aussi rempli de troupes; vers 6 heures un quart nous avons appris l'arrivée d'un troisième train, et vers 8 heures et demie celle d'un quatrième train, aussi avec des troupes. Les troupes arrivées avec les deux premiers trains se sont dirigées avec leurs bagages à la caserne de notre ville; les autres, je suppose, sont restées à la station du chemin de fer.

Ici il règne une grande tranquillité; on voit seulement un grand mouvement parmi les Albanais: il nous arrivent chaque jour des districts environants et de Prisrend plusieurs bandes, et d'autres nous quittent. Dans ce moment il y a à Uscup 500 Albanais armés, mais personne connait le but de l'arrivée et départ de ces gens.

Aucun membre de la Ligue, ni même aucun Albanais, est allé ce soir recevoir les troupes du Sultan, seulement les soldats se trouvant campés ici ont été à leur rencontre et les ont accompagnés jusqu'à leur caserne!

No. 39.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 168.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March 11, 1881.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 138 of the 24th ultimo, reporting the language you had held to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs with regard to the attitude which it would be wise on the part of the Porte to assume towards the Government of Eastern Roumelia, and I have to acquaint your Excellency that the advice you gave to Assim Pasha is entirely approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 40.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 169.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March 11, 1881.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 139 of the 24th ultimo, inclosing a copy of a letter from Aleko Pasha, conveying to your Excellency his appreciation of the services rendered to himself and the Province of Eastern Roumelia by Mr. Stephen during his stay at Philippopoli, and stating that the Sultan had, at his Excellency's request, decided to confer on Mr. Stephen the Order of the Osmanié.

OUTLINE MAP.

GIVING THE VARIOUS PROPOSED BOUNDARIES BETWEEN

MONTENEGRO AND ALBANIA

SCUTARI

DULCIGNO

BOJANA R.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE
Reference: F.O. 424 / 112
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I have to request your Excellency to convey to Mr. Stephen my approval of the manner in which he has performed his duties whilst acting as Consul-General in Eastern Roumelia, and the satisfaction with which I have received the favourable testimony borne by Aleko Pasha to his impartial and conciliatory attitude in the difficult position in which he was placed.

Your Excellency will inform Aleko Pasha that Her Majesty's Government have learnt with much pleasure that Mr. Stephen has been able to be of use to his Excellency and the Province of Eastern Roumelia, and you will state that the Regulations of Her Majesty's Service do not allow of Mr. Stephen accepting the decoration for which his Excellency has been good enough to recommend him to the Sultan.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 41.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 12.)

E
(No. 18.)
My Lord,

6, Albemarle Street, W., March 12, 1881.

IN continuation of my despatches No. 6 of the 17th January last and No. 17 of the 28th ultimo to your Lordship, I have the honour to inclose a sketch which shows at a glance the various frontier lines north of the Lake of Scutari alluded to in the above despatches.

I have, further, the honour to explain that there appears to me to be a special reason for taking immediate steps to secure an agreement between the interested parties in the matter of this frontier, inasmuch as the Turkish Commissioner, who personally desires much to get this question settled, is now at Constantinople, and has assured me that he will do his best to induce the Porte to assent to a settlement in accordance with a line which I have already explained to your Lordship, and which is also shown (in blue) in the inclosed map.

As I have reason to believethat the Turkish Commissioner may soon be sent to the staff of the army in Thessaly and Epirus, it seems desirable that the question should be raised whilst he is still at Constantinople.

I would also remark that it is necessary to settle the frontier near Podgoritza before proceeding to demarcate that which lies north and east towards the Lim valley.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. T. SALE, *Captain, R.E.*,
Commissioner.

Inclosure in No. 41.

Sketch showing the various Frontier Lines north of the Lake of Scutari alluded to in Captain Sale's Nos. 6 *and* 17 (1881).

No. 42.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 13, 11·30 P.M.)

(No. 4.)
(Telegraphic.)

Filibé, March 13, 1881.

THE Governor-General has received a telegram from the Porte stating that the Budget and eleven of the Laws voted last Session have been approved by the Council of Ministers and submitted to the Sultan.

This action on the part of the Porte will probably produce a good impression here.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 43.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 13, 11·30 P.M.)

(No. 5.)
(Telegraphic.)

Filibé, March 13, 1881, 7·10 P.M.

HAVE this evening handed over archives to Captain Jones. I start for Constantinople on Wednesday.

No. 44.

E *Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.*—(*Received March* 14.)

(No. 159.)
My Lord,

Constantinople, March 6, 1881.

I HAVE read with interest the copies of despatches which Mr. Kirby Green has addressed to your Lordship on the subject of the alleged claim of Austria to apply the provision of the XXIXth Article of the Treaty of Berlin to the waters of the Boyana, with the effect that these waters might be closed to Turkish gun-boats.

It appears that Colonel Thömmel has put forward an interpretation of this kind.

I have not seen any despatches to show whether the Austrian Government really proposes to put forward such a view. If it does I should be glad to know what your Lordship decides on the subject, though it appears to me to be clear that such a pretension could not be admitted.

I have not heard my Austrian colleague speak of the subject, and do not think it expedient to volunteer any expression of opinion to him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 45.

E *Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.*—(*Received March* 14.)

(No. 163.)
My Lord,

Constantinople, March 7, 1881.

IN reply to your Lordship's despatch No. 116 of the 26th ultimo, relating to the appointment of an Inspector of Customs in Eastern Roumelia by His Majesty the Sultan, and requesting my opinion as to the merits of the case, and as to whether it would be desirable that the Powers should exercise their influence to settle the question, I have the honour to state that, in my judgment, the appointment is contrary to the Organic Statute, but I have no other materials for forming this judgment beyond the papers inclosed in the above despatch.

It appears that the Turkish Prime Minister only refers generally to the Statute, while the Governor-General of the province cites certain Articles which appear distinctly to cover the case. However, I do not presume to be able to pronounce a more authoritative opinion on the point than any one else who peruses the papers which have been sent me.

With regard to the Powers exerting influence to settle this question, I am not inclined to recommend any formal or collective step. Your Lordship is aware from my previous despatches that I have lately called the attention of the Foreign Minister to the evident inexpediency of irritating East Roumelia at a moment like the present, and it may be well for me to return to this point, and to advise the Porte not to press the appointment of the Inspector of Customs on this ground. But it must be remembered that this question is only one of many which have given rise to unsettled disputes between the Porte and the authorities of the province with reference to the application and the interpretation of various Articles of the Organic Statute, and if the Powers interfered in one they would at once be requested to interfere in another. It may be a question whether, sooner or later, the Powers should not use their influence to settle these disputes once for all, and to bring back the administration in East Roumelia to a more legal footing. At present the refusal of the Porte to ratify appointments, and the conduct of the provincial authorities in carrying on affairs just as if the ratification had been obtained, has established a condition of things which is wholly irregular; and if the question of the Inspector of Customs were taken up by the Powers, whichever side felt itself aggrieved by the action of the Powers would have some claim at once to invoke their aid and influence

in settling other equally serious points of dispute where they might feel themselves strongly in the right.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 46.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 14.)

(No. 175.)
Constantinople, March 8, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a copy of a note which I have thought it my duty to address to the Porte on the receipt, from Her Majesty's Consul at Tripoli, in Barbary, of a report of a second murder at that place of a British subject at the hands of a Mussulman native.

The continued silence and disregard of the Porte to the representations which I was instructed by your Lordship to make to it with reference to the murder of Mr. Gale at St. Jean d'Acre, and the many other instances of murdered British subjects for which no adequate redress has been obtained from the Turkish Government, have induced me to take a step which I thought necessary under the circumstances, and which I hope will meet with your Lordship's approval.

Your Lordship will observe that I have expressed myself very strongly in the note to the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 46.

Mr. Goschen to Assim Pasha.

Constantinople, March 1, 1881.

M. le Ministre,

INFORMATION has reached Her Majesty's Embassy from Tripoli, in Barbary, that on the 30th January last an act of murder was committed by an Arab named Mohammed Ben Salem upon a British subject named Prenden Arhib, the son of a respectable merchant of that place. The murderer was at once arrested and disarmed by the bystanders, who delivered him to the authorities.

In view, however, of the miscarriage of justice at Tripoli by these authorities on the occasion of a similar act, reported to the Sublime Porte by Sir H. Layard in his note of the 12th January last year, namely, the murder of a British subject, named Cini, by a Mussulman named Brahim, who entered the victim's house at night, through a hole in the wall, and, deliberately firing a blunderbuss, killed him on the spot, in presence of a witness who occupied the same room, but was unperceived by the assassin, I deem it my duty to request that the Imperial Government will without delay instruct the authorities of Tripoli to deal with this case in a manner less at variance with usage in civilized countries. The disgrace which the authorities of Tripoli brought upon themselves on the occasion above quoted will not easily be forgotten. I feel confident, therefore, that the Imperial Government, which must look upon wilful and deliberate murder with equal horror, whether committed upon a Christian or a Mussulman, will lose not one moment in giving such directions to their authorities at Tripoli as may be necessary to insure a fair trial, as well as prompt and adequate punishment of the guilty party.

While on this painful subject, your Excellency will permit me to mention various other cases of British subjects murdered by Mussulmans, which from time to time have been brought to the notice of the Sublime Porte by Her Majesty's Embassy, owing either to the faulty manner in which the trial of the criminal was conducted, to the wholly inadequate punishment to which he was subjected, or to the failure even to arrest him where circumstances seemed clearly to indicate who he was.

By reference to a note addressed by Her Majesty's Embassy to the Sublime Porte on the 27th June, 1879, it will be seen that a Turkish subject named Ibrahim Abu Zied was condemned to death for murdering an English gentleman named Gale, in the neighbourhood of St. Jean d'Acre, and that, although the sentence was confirmed by the Supreme Court of Appeal at Constantinople, it was never carried out, but was commuted to fifteen years' imprisonment. In his above-mentioned note, Her Majesty's Ambassador asked for explanations on the subject, but no answer has yet been received from the Porte.

On the 16th November, 1879, and again on the 13th January, 1880, the case of two British subjects murdered at Bussorah was represented to the Sublime Porte, and yet, though one of the assassins made a full confession, neither he nor either of his companions was arrested.

In December 1878 the British Telegraph Office at Fao, which is protected by a guard of Turkish soldiers, was robbed, and an Indian British subject murdered, but no redress has been obtained.

In July 1880 the British steamer "Khalifah," when near Ezra's tomb on the Tigris, was fired upon and nearly captured by a large party of Arabs, whose leader, Dakh Deyhood, is well known and at large to this day.

In quite a recent case, that of the murder of the Englishman (Milne) at Bagdad, the circumstances were so suspicious that, in the opinion of the whole city, they clearly pointed to one Mahommed Salah as the instigator of the deed, and yet, because wealthy and influential, the local authorities refused to arrest him till your Excellency was appealed to by Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires, in pursuance of orders received by the latter from London. Since then, although the preliminary examination has commenced, it is conducted in a manner which shows only too plainly how it is likely to result. The prisoner, Mahommed Salah, when brought into Court, received the respectful homage of all the officials present—the President and every one rising from their seats on his arrival, while those who could give evidence in the case are afraid to come forward lest he be acquitted, knowing full well, from his previous deeds and notorious character, that they would become victims of his vengeance were they in any way to bear testimony against him.

It is my duty to call your Excellency's very serious attention to this enumeration of instances where no satisfaction has been given to Her Majesty's Government in cases of violent crimes.

It is impossible for Her Majesty's Government to view with indifference the continuance or repetition of such demands for justice and redress, and I trust your Excellency will enable me at last to inform my Government that the Sublime Porte is prepared to act in these matters in a manner more conformable to its international duties, and to give the same guarantees to English subjects entering the dominions of His Majesty the Sultan, that their life and property will be respected, as Ottoman subjects enjoy in the dominions of Her Majesty the Queen.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 47.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 14.)

(No. 127.)
Vienna, March 10, 1881.

My Lord,

M. STOITCHOFF, the Bulgarian Minister for Foreign Affairs, called upon me this morning, when we had some conversation about the neglect of his Government to destroy the fortresses as prescribed by the Treaty of Berlin.

He argued that they had, in point of fact, already ceased to be in existence, as much of the stone had been carried away by the villagers.

I replied that I was aware of the Government having permitted the walls in some parts to be used at quarries, but the removal of the stone would not alone effect what had been contemplated by the Treaty, and he must recollect that his Government, having long represented that the demolition could not be undertaken on account of the expenditure it would require, this present declaration that the fortresses no longer existed could hardly be accepted.

When I spoke of the large proportion of the revenue of the Principality absorbed in the creation of a regular army instead of the militia designed by the Treaty, M. Stoitchoff said that the state of Macedonia rendered it necessary for Bulgaria to have an efficient army; to which I replied that, whatever might occur in Macedonia, as it was certain that the Turks would not attack the Principality, the state of the province he alluded to afforded no grounds for keeping up an army unless it was intended to take part in operations beyond the frontiers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 48.

Earl Granville to Mr. Stephen.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 14, 1881, 4·45 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 5, reporting that you had handed over the archives to Captain Jones, I have much pleasure in conveying to you my entire approval of the manner in which you have performed your duties while in charge of the Consulate-General at Philippopoli.

No. 49.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 93.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 14, 1881.

DURING a conversation which I had this afternoon with Count Károlyi, his Excellency stated that in case of war breaking out between Turkey and Greece the Austro-Hungarian Government did not intend to make any difference between Bosnia and the Herzegovina and the rest of the Empire, and that the Proclamation to be issued in such an event would apply to both.

In regard to the liability of the inhabitants of those provinces to military service, he said that no such liability existed, and that the difficulty therefore could not arise.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 49*.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received March 15.)

(No. 4.)

(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, March* 14, 1881.

PRINCE of Bulgaria left for St. Petersburgh this morning, accompanied by M. Stoiloff; the Council of Ministers will govern the country during His Highness' absence. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is intrusted to Minister of War.

No. 50.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(Received March 16.)

(No. 10.)

My Lord, *Philippopoli, February* 28, 1881.

AT an interview which I had with the Bulgarian Exarch during my visit to Constantinople, I questioned his Beatitude relative to the proposals alleged to have been made to the Exarchate by the Vatican, referred to in my despatches Nos. 338 and 359 of the 18th September and 1st November. His Beatitude replied that the Bulgarian Church, having been denounced as schismatic, the Porte had up till now abstained from approving the establishment of Bulgarian Bishopries in Macedonia. That much anxiety was in consequence felt amongst the Bulgarian clergy regarding the position of their Macedonian co-religionists. If this state of things went on, and the Greek Patriarch continued to refuse to recognize the Bulgarian Church, it was not unlikely that many Bulgarians would be in favour of accepting the proposal of the Vatican. All his Holiness required was, that he should be recognized as their Spiritual Chief, and that his name should be mentioned in the Liturgy.

Altogether, the general impression produced upon me by the Exarch's language was that, although unprepared at present to entertain these proposals, he was not unwilling that they should become known; probably in the hope of thereby forcing the hands of the Greek Patriarchat and the Russian Synod with a view of more speedily obtaining the recognition of the Bulgarian Church.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. CONDIE STEPHEN.

No. 51.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(Received March 16.)

(No. 13. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Philippopoli, March* 6, 1881.

OWING to the promotion of the Inspector of the Gendarmerie to the rank of General, an attempt is being made by a certain clique here to obtain the recall of that officer. It is urged that the presence in Eastern Roumelia of two Generals is contrary to the Organic Statute, which stipulates that the post of Inspector of Gendarmerie is to be filled by an "officier supérieur." Generals, they maintain, are not "officiers supérieurs;" Colonels and Majors alone being included in that category.

On the urgent representations of General Strecker, it was resolved at a recent meeting of the Council to address a note to the Sublime Porte drawing its attention to the matter. At the same time, however, Aleko Pasha, in informing General Borthwick of what had taken place, urged him to communicate with Mr. Goschen on the subject, adding that he not only wished him to remain, but that he would like to see him advanced to the chief command. As regards the appeal made by General Strecker to the Statute, I would venture to submit that there is no Article in that instrument which distinctly excludes the possibility of a General occupying the post of Inspector of Gendarmerie. So long as General Borthwick is willing to accept the salary of Colonel, the higher grade given to him may with reason be regarded as Brevet rank only. I may add that with the exception of a few members of the Permanent Committee who receive their instructions from the Russian Consulate, the Bulgarians generally appear to favour the view taken by the Governor-General. The Bulgarian officers of the militia and gendarmerie do not conceal their wish, that General Borthwick may replace General Strecker, whose position has become almost untenable.

General Borthwick left this morning for Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. CONDIE STEPHEN.

No. 52.

Consul Sandwith to Earl Granville.—(Received March 16.)

(No. 10.)

My Lord, *Canea, Crete, March* 4, 1881.

I HAD the honour, on the 21st ultimo, to report to your Lordship a disturbance which had taken place in the district of Mirabello, in the eastern part of Crete, by reason of the refusal of the inhabitants to pay a trifling tax which had been decreed by the General Assembly at its last sitting. Photiades Pasha led me to believe that the matter was of small moment, and that the refusal to pay would not be persisted in. Subsequent information given me by Mr. Vice-Consul Calocherino, and by some trustworthy persons on the spot, makes me fear that serious troubles may arise when measures are taken to enforce payment. In order to give your Lordship a clearer view of the question, it will be necessary to state certain circumstances which, by increasing its gravity, may render an arrangement more difficult.

Neapolis, the village where the disturbance arose, is the head-quarters of the Sandjak of Mirabello, comprising the eastern part of Crete, and since the settlement of the island two and a-half years ago, until within six weeks, it has been more tranquil and better governed than any part of the island. When, quite recently, orders were given that the tax should be collected, it was instantly apparent that resistance would be offered. A man was hired by certain influential people to go round the villages threatening any one with violence who responded to the call of the Government, and on his being denounced as a disturber of the peace, the Procureur ordered his imprisonment, two members of the Municipal Council who refused payment of the obnoxious impost being also imprisoned. This was the signal for the people to collect in force and tumultuously demand their release. Hereupon a petition was hastily drawn up for the liberation of the crier, addressed to the local Tribunal, the members of which, being elected by the people and sharing their passions, proceeded to decree his release. Meanwhile the Vali, being fully informed of the dimensions the movement was assuming, telegraphed for four companies of regular troops to proceed to the spot, and ordered the Chief of Police, with 1-10 gendarmes, to the same destination. With this force at his disposal, the Mutessarif was both able and willing to disperse the crowd, and the Chief of Police began to act energetically by ordering

his men to disarm some of the ringleaders. Stones and sticks were freely used, and the people ran to their houses to fetch their guns, when in a moment of weakness the Vali telegraphed orders for the release of the crier who first incited the disturbance, adding that he would shortly come himself and listen to the complaints of the rioters. All three prisoners were accordingly set at liberty, and the people returned in triumph to their homes. This act of weakness has, it is to be feared, much diminished the chances of a peaceable settlement of the question, and the precedent thus afforded of disregard to authority is of bad augury for the future.

Two weak points in the present organization of the Local Government have been brought into prominence by the incident just related: firstly, that in any question of popular interest the Judges are the mere tools of the people who elect them; and, secondly, that the gendarmes should not be employed in the districts and villages to which they belong, for in the recent tumultuous gathering the local police would not act against their fellow-villagers. Sectional jealousies are especially rampant among Cretans, for not only are they intolerant of the employment of non-Cretans in the Local Administration, but one district will often refuse to receive an employé belonging to another district. In the late *émeute* a much more bitter spirit was displayed against the police of Candia than against the regulars, who are Turks. This characteristic of the Cretans is a most serious obstacle to the good government of the country, and it requires a firmer hand than that of Photindes Pasha to keep it within bounds. His Excellency purposes going down to Candia in the course of a few days, but I am not sanguine of his being able to bring the people to a better mind.

I regret to add that a serious quarrel between Mussulmans and Christians, in which two of the former were killed, has just occurred in a village a few miles inland from Candia. When the tidings reached the town gaol, the Mussulman prisoners incarcerated there, amongst whom happened to be a brother of one of the murdered men, rose against their Christian fellow-prisoners, and so maltreated them that it required the intervention of the troops to restore order. It has been thought advisable to remove the aggressors to the barracks to prevent a renewal of the attack. A few other murders have also been reported which have produced a sort of panic amongst the country people, who are now afraid of going in and out of Candia unless in companies of ten or twenty for mutual protection. In the town itself the Vice-Consul reports that the resident Mussulmans enter the cafés where the Mussulmans [*sic*] resort for the purpose of provoking quarrels.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 53.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received March 16.)

(No. 34.)
My Lord, *Salonica, March 7, 1881.*

NO less than 32 convicts (9 Albanians, 8 Turks, 8 Greeks, and 7 Bulgarians) effected their escape last week from the prisons of Salonica.

Among the number is Yonouz Ghega, the notorious Albanian brigand, whose capture I reported to your Lordship in my despatch No. 146 of the 28th November, 1880.

The Governor-General has offered a reward of 100*l.* for his recapture.

The chief gaoler and some police officials are strongly suspected of having assisted these fugitive convicts, and, in consequence, have been placed in arrest by the Military Governor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 54.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received March 16.)

(No. 35.)
My Lord, *Salonica, March 7, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a letter from a correspondent at Kluprulu on the subject of Albanian affairs; also of another letter from Monastir giving some further information respecting the late proceedings in Dibra of Abdul Bey Phrassari, the Tosca Albanian agitator.

This information is confirmed by intelligence received from other trustworthy sources.

At Useup everything is quiet. The Turkish troops continue to occupy the place, but in other respects the provincial administration is still under the control of the League, Ibrahim Pasha, the Commander of the troops, having received strict orders from the Porte to pursue a conciliatory policy towards the Albanians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 54.

Mr. ——— to Consul-General Blunt.

(Extrait.) *Kluprulu, le 28 Février, 1881.*

LA tranquillité règne presque partout. La Ligue Albanaise, cependant, effectue toujours plusieurs mouvements et fait ce que bon lui semble, destituant tantôt un employé du Gouvernement tantôt un autre.

On m'écrit d'Useup, en date d'hier, que le Conseil de cette ville était sens dessus dessous.

Hier quatre trains sont passés par ici portant à la hâte des soldats à Useup. D'après ce qu'on me dit, il paraît que ces troupes sont envoyées là-haut dans le but de pacifier les Albanais et pour empêcher de s'opposer au Gouvernement, comme aussi pour enrôler des soldats. On dit qu'à présent les Albanais consentiraient à servir dans l'armée, mais que le Gouvernement veut leur infliger une punition pour les désordres causés, en frappant surtout les chefs; c'est pourquoi je crains que la tranquillité sera de nouveau troublée, mais nous n'aurons pas des conséquences fâcheuses à déplorer, car si le Gouvernement a résolu de s'opposer énergiquement aux mouvements des Albanais, ces derniers n'auront pas le courage de le braver.

Inclosure 2 in No. 54.

Mr. ——— to Consul-General Blunt.

(Extract.) *Monastir, February 29 (?), 1881.*

YOU know that Abdul Bey Phrassari left Constantinople secretly about six or seven weeks ago. He had been summoned there by the Sultan, who kept him under surveillance, pretending that he will entrust him with a mission to Albania. Abdul Bey was still at Constantinople when the memorial of the Ghegas was brought by Djemal Bey and Abdul Bakky Effendi, and seeing the contempt with which it was treated decided to leave with or without permission. Abdul Bey has always been a red-hot unionist. His idea was to unite Toscas and Ghegas, no matter by what means. He reached safely Albania about a month ago, viâ Corfu, and sat immediately to work.

After having canvassed a good number of districts in South Albania, he proceeded, in company with several other Chiefs, to the Ghegalik, and visited successively Prisrend, Jacova, Ipek, Pristina, and Dibra. About a fortnight ago a meeting was held at Prisrend, under the presidency of Hodja Omer Effendi; all the Prisrend Chiefs and a great number of other members of the League were present.

Abdul Bey Phrassari moved a proposition of calling out immediately a force of 15,000 Albanians; (2) to send ultimatums to Greece, Montenegro, and Stamboul. He made a strong speech exposing the present state of Albania and the situation of the Turkish Empire.

He said:—"The Porte will do nothing for Albania. They treat us and our memorials with the greatest contempt; the Porte will probably give up a part of Albania under European pressure; that they have nothing to expect from these quarters except the old state of things, and a still greater misery. Do you know, brethren, what they are going to take away from us? Exactly those places where we send our cattle when our regions are covered with snow. We have got no commerce, no industry, no professions, no roads; we are nothing but poor shepherds, just as we were 600 years ago, and our neighbours are jealous of our only means of existence. They want to take it away from us. Let us think and work for ourselves; let there be no difference between Toscas and Ghegas; let us be Albanians, and make one Albania," &c.

This speech made a great impression, and the meeting decided that the Tosca delegates should proceed with two Prisrend delegates to Upper and Lower Dibra, which remained neutral until lately, through Ahmet Eyoub Pasha's policy. Abdul Bey delivered speeches wherever he went, producing everywhere good impressions. The Lower Dibriotes, who were very reserved at first, made soon "cause commune" with Abdul Bey and party, and a large deputation of Lower Dibriotes joined him in order to proceed to Upper Dibra. When they reached this latter place, Abdul Bey, at the head of the delegation, rode up to the konak, held a Medjliss, delivered a speech, when it was decided unanimously to relieve the Mutessarif Mehmed Bey from his functions (he was sent there a short time ago). Order was given to Mehmed Bey to leave in twenty-four hours. He arrived here a few days ago, and is still shivering.

A fellow named Ago Bey, a young Albanian of 21, who had received some "privileges" from Mehmed Bey, fired two shots at Abdul Bey, but killed only his horse (shortly after leaving the konak). The Lower Dibriotes were furious, and made against the Upper Dibriotes (read "Government officials—Albanians") an accusation of treachery. Telegraphic communications were cut off for two days. Last night intelligence arrived from Dibra that an arrangement has taken place between Upper and Lower Dibra.

Saturday last, 3 P.M., a military telegram arrived here from Cossova, stating that the League there have requested the military Liva Pasha to give them 10,000 Martini-Henry rifles, for which they offered to deliv[illegible]ceipts and pay for any damages.

They requested the Pasha not to refuse, as 8,000 Albanians are not far from Cossova.

This morning a second telegram, signed by several Albanian Notables of Cossova, arrived denying the Liva's telegram. The proceedings of the Cossova League have no effect whatever on the Mahommedan community of Monastir, as they do not know what is going on. As for the Prisrend League, its influence does hardly reach the Lower Dibra.

No. 55.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 16.)

(No. 36.)
My Lord, *Saloniea, March* 8, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, extract from a letter from my correspondent at Serres on the subject of the suppression of brigandage in that sandjak.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 55.

Mr. Langdon to Consul-General Blunt.

(Extract.) *Serres, February* 28, 1881.

REGARDING the extinction of brigandage, it is alleged here this favourable result is owing to the presence of troops; the inclemency of winter also greatly helped. At first Tosen Albanians were brought out here, but their presence produced little effect in maintaining order and tranquillity. Last summer, when the troops arrived, martial law was proclaimed; the inhabitants of Serres and the villages were ordered to remain in their houses, and not issue therefrom an hour after sunset. The villagers were ordered not to give bread, provisions, or clothing to the brigands, on pain of being exposed to the rigours of the law.

The brigands for a time, of course, wrested these by compulsion, and this they could easily do, as the authorities never sanctioned the villagers to fire upon the robbers or take the law in their own hands, even in self-defence.

On arrival of the military the villagers denounced the robbers. They were hunted out, and about eighty of them killed, others fled; this broke down their organization.

Many individuals, compromised for having supplied provisions to the brigands, were brought here, and finally sent out of the province; also several relations of the brigands, both men and women, were removed from the province, whether innocent or culpable of the misdeeds of their relative robbers, but now that the province is quiet they are allowed to return.

Although brigandage is fortunately extinct, there is still a feeling of insecurity in the district owing to outrages perpetrated by the "Mubadjirs" (war fugitives from Bulgaria). Villagers belated on the road are liable to be forced to dismount from their animals, which they—the "Mubadjirs—take from them.

About a month ago a certain Vourha, a person of some influence and very respected, went out fishing on the River Kara-Sou; he never returned; his disappearance is a mystery. It is not known whether he was drowned or met his death by violence. The latter supposition prevails.

No. 56.

Earl Granville to Mr. Lascelles.

(No. 12.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 16, 1881.

YOUR despatch No. 11, Confidential, of the 10th ultimo has been received, and I have to acquaint you that Her Majesty's Government approve the language you held to the Prince of Bulgaria, as therein reported, with regard to His Highness' relations with his Ministers and the Bulgarian Chamber.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 57.

Earl Granville to Mr. Lascelles.

(No. 13.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 16, 1881.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 13 of the 14th ultimo, relative to the omission of any mention of the Prince of Bulgaria in the Circular which M. Stoitchoff addressed to the foreign Agents at Sophia on the 8th ultimo, stating that M. Stoiloff has been appointed by the Council of Ministers to take charge of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs; and I have to acquaint you that I approve your having agreed to the representation which was made on this subject to Prince Alexander by the German Consul-General as Doyen of the foreign Agents.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 58.

Earl Granville to Mr. Lascelles.

(No. 15.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 16, 1881.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 12 of the 12th ultimo, inclosing a copy of a Circular addressed to the Agents of the Great Powers at Sophia by the Bulgarian Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject of the immigration of the inhabitants of Macedonia into Bulgaria; and I have to state to you that the language you held to M. Stoitchoff before you had received his Circular, as reported in your above-mentioned despatch, is approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 59.

Earl Granville to Consul-General Blunt.

(No. 4.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 16, 1881.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 30, Political, of the 24th ultimo, inclosing copies of letters from Mr. H. Suter relative to the prevalence of brigandage in the district of Cassandra, and I approve the representations you made to the Military Governor of

Salonica with regard to the personal safety of Mr. Suter, as reported in your above-mentioned despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 60.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 23.)
My Lord, *Scutari, March 3, 1881.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 3 of the 28th January last, in regard to the alleged confiscation by the Montenegrin Government of the property of Mussulmans who emigrated from the ceded districts, I have the honour to state to your Lordship that, when I was fifteen days ago at Cettinjé, I had occasion to speak on this subject not only with the Prince, but also with my colleagues, and notably with the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires, Aleko Bey, who explained that the reports in question had emanated from the authorities at Scutari, and not from the Ottoman Legation in Montenegro.

Prince Nicholas complained bitterly of the incessant calumnies fabricated by the Turkish authorities, and asked me to assist him in making public his firm intention to carry out to the letter all the engagements of the Treaty of Berlin with reference to Mahommedans and their property in his Principality; and, further, on my arrival at Scutari, to announce even to such of the Mahommedan emigrants from Podgoritza as had recently taken part in the hostile attacks from Tonsi, that their property in Montenegro had been preserved intact, and was at their immediate disposal whenever they might wish to return to their homes, or send to claim it.

My Austrian colleague especially confirmed the loyal manner in which the Montenegrin Government was acting in all these matters, but he agreed with me in despairing of ever seeing the Ottoman authorities accepting in a straightforward manner the inevitable consequences of the territorial cessions to Montenegro.

They seem to have no other object in view than to force all Mussulmans to quit the Principality, and, by giving wrong interpretations to the clauses of the Treaty of Berlin, to form exaggerated ideas of their rights, and to believe that they are being treated unjustly.

I understand that some of the emigrants from the town of Niksic, who had gone back there to look after their property, have now returned to Scutari, and complain that the Montenegrin Government, whilst offering to reinstate them in possession of their houses and land, has declined to obtain for them the rent or produce which might have been secured during their absence.

I cannot say whether such returns could have been realized, but it is a question which may be answered in many ways, when it is remembered that these Mussulmans abandoned their homes of their own free will when the town surrendered, and, in many instances, formerly preferred to leave their lands uncultivated, whilst living on the subsidies paid to them by the Turkish Government as defenders of a frontier fortress. It is only now, when they have discovered that the Ottoman authorities have declined to continue their salaries, or to subsist them, that they have thought of going back to look after what they had voluntarily surrendered.

It is the same with most of the inhabitants of Spuz and Podgoritza. These places were also frontier garrisons, and the majority of their inhabitants likewise subsisted on the fruits of military service, or by providing for the wants of the Turkish troops.

When the latter were withdrawn they suddenly found themselves without a means of livelihood, and flocked to Scutari, alleging that they could not bear to submit to Christian rule. As long as rations were regularly issued to them by the Turkish authorities, they did not think of their abandoned homes and property, merely from time to time inventing accusations against the Montenegrin Administration; but lately their gratuitous subsistence has been somewhat neglected, and they have been obliged to reconsider the wisdom of their immigration here, so that since my return I have been overwhelmed by applications for recommendations to the Montenegrin authorities on their behalf.

I am sure that all who go back will obtain the restitution of all they possessed, and even the rents due for the lands which Montenegrins have cultivated in their absence; but, at the same time, I fully expect that many will indulge in lamentations, and not attribute

their undeniable losses to the inevitable result of political occurrences and their own acts.

At Antivari, in the Kraïna, and at Dulcigno, where the inhabitants were *bonâ fide* agriculturists, or had not been demoralized by Government subsidies and pensions for undefined military services, they, as soon as practicable (and through my means), returned to their homes, or never abandoned them; and one and all agree in admitting that they have been, and are being, treated with justice and consideration by the Montenegrin Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 61.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 24.)
My Lord, *Scutari, March 4, 1881.*

A REPORT has been current for the last few days among the Mohammedans of this place, that the Austro-Hungarian Government is about to exchange with Montenegro a portion of the Herzegovina for the maritime districts of Antivari and Dulcigno.

I have no reason to believe that there is any other foundation for the rumour than the appearance it presents of suiting the interests of both sides. Still, I have no doubt that if the Austrian Government desires the exchange, Prince Nicholas would be greatly disposed to accept it, for His Highness has frequently told me that the natural and legitimate extension of his Principality lies in the direction of the Herzegovina, where the inhabitants are of the same race as the Montenegrins.

The circulation of this report has, however, made apparent a certain desire on the part of the North Albanian Mahommedans that Austria should advance in their direction, as they seem to contemplate a not far distant future when they will cease to belong to the Ottoman Empire.

It is perhaps unnecessary for me to add to your Lordship, that the Roman Catholic Albanians also would view such a result with satisfaction if the prospect of an improvement in the actual state of the country does not present itself very shortly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 62.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 25.)
My Lord, *Scutari, March 4, 1881.*

WITH reference to Captain Sale's despatch No. 3 of the 7th January last, communicated to me in your Lordship's despatch No. 7 of the 22nd ultimo, I have the honour to explain that in Montenegro a law exists, which I believe is common to most countries, that any one wishing to possess real property in the Principality must engage to consider himself, to all intents and purposes, a Montenegrin subject with reference to that property.

There are several natives of Scutari who own real property at Rieka and elsewhere in Montenegro on this understanding.

Since the increase of the territory of the Principality, through the Treaty of Berlin, the law in question must, *ipso facto*, have been modified so far as to the tenure of real property by Turkish subjects is concerned, for the Montenegrin Government is pledged not to deprive the original proprietors of their possessions, but at the same time, I hardly think the Treaty can ever have contemplated preventing the Montenegrin Government from exercising a proper control over the lands of its new territories, and extending privileges, secured by the Treaty, to other aliens who might subsequently wish to become land-owners in Montenegro.

Prince Nicholas has, however, always shown himself so ready to meet the wishes of the Powers in these matters, that I feel whatever representation your Lordship might deem it fair for me to make, in order to obtain a relaxation of the present laws of the Principality, would receive His Highness' most attentive consideration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 63.

Memorandum by Captain Sale.—(Received March 18.)

E

Frontier of Montenegro, North of Lake of Scutari; Definition of proposed Modification of the "Status Quo" Line.

THIS line starts from the north shore of the lake, at a point about 2,000 metres west of point XIX of Captain Sale's map. It passes west of the forest and village of Markorman, and east of the villages of Gornje, Gostil, Gosič, and Matagûs, leaving these three latter villages to Montenegro. It then passes west of the village of Vladun, which it leaves to Turkey, and so towards the bridge over the Zem (Rzanski Most) in such a manner as to define the limits of the actual possessions of the Albanian tribes; the said limits to be determined by the majority of the Commission on the spot.

The bridge of Rzanski Most remains to Turkey.

From thence the line passes direct to the point Vojna (Srč) of Captain Sale's map, and thereafter follows the southern boundary of the Kučka Krajna.

(Signed) M. T. SALE, *Captain, R.E., Commissioner.*

March 18, 1881.

No. 64.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received March 18, 1 P.M.)

(No. 46.)
(Telegraphic.)

St. Petersburgh, March 18, 1881.

A CIRCULAR announcing the accession of the Emperor Alexander III to the throne has been sent to Russian Embassies and Legations abroad.

The foreign policy of Russia will be pacific; and nothing short of the necessity of protecting her national honour, and of defending her material interests, will cause the Emperor to deviate from the resolution thus formed, whilst all His Majesty's energies will be devoted to the development of the internal resources of the country and the settlement of social and economical questions.

No. 65.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 184.)
(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, March 18, 1881, 4·15 P.M.

LORD SHAFTESBURY has asked for a special letter of recommendation to the Turkish authorities in Van, Erzeroum, Diarbekir, Kharput, and other towns, for Mr. Morrison, agent of the British and Foreign Bible Society, who is about to travel in Asia Minor to ascertain what is being done to supply the population with the Scriptures. In the present disturbed state of the country, I do not like to give such general introductions without consulting you. Please telegraph your opinion.

No. 66.

E

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 199.)
Sir,

Foreign Office, March 18, 1881.

I TRANSMIT herewith copies of despatches, as marked in the margin,* which I have received from Captain Sale, relative to the future proceedings of the Montenegrin Boundary Commission.

Her Majesty's Commissioner is of opinion that, having regard to the attitude of both the interested parties with respect to the line of frontier to be adopted to the north of the Lake of Scutari, it is improbable that a line will be agreed upon on the re-assembling of the Commission, unless some preliminary understanding be come to with the Porte and

* See Part LVII, No. 158; Part LVIII, No. 63; and *ante*, No. 41.

the Montenegrin Government, and the decision of the majority in the Commission be accepted as final.

As your Excellency is aware, the Porte has never accepted the line of frontier which was proposed in the "Dulcigno arrangement" for the territory north of the Lake of Scutari, and Captain Sale understands from the Turkish Commissioner that it would be now impossible for it to do so without provoking the opposition of the Christian tribes of North Albania, to whom, in order to prevent their joining in the resistance to the cession of Dulcigno, the Porte was compelled to give the most positive assurances that in no case would their lands be touched.

Bedri Bey appears, however, to be ready to recommend, and to think that the Porte would be prepared to accept, a considerable modification of the *status quo* line proposed in the draft Convention which was communicated to the Montenegrin Delegate on the 17th October last, and of which a copy is inclosed in Captain Sale's despatch No. 30 of the 25th of that month; and Captain Sale suggests that advantage should be taken of that Turkish officer's presence at Constantinople to endeavour to come to an understanding with the Porte upon the various points to which he refers in the despatches which I inclose.

I have accordingly to instruct your Excellency to consult with your colleagues of Austria, France, Italy, Germany, and Russia as to whether any, and if so what, steps should be taken to sound the Porte as to its intentions with regard to this question.

I inclose tracings of a map to accompany Captain Sale's despatches of the 17th January and 12th instant, and an explanatory memorandum from that officer.*

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 67.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 95.)
Sir,

Foreign Office, March 18, 1881.

I HAVE to state to your Excellency that I approve the language which you held, as reported in your despatch No. 127 of the 10th instant, to M. Stoitchoff, the Bulgarian Minister for Foreign Affairs, on the subject of the failure of his Government to destroy their fortresses as prescribed by the Treaty of Berlin.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 68.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Earl Granville.—(Received March 19.)

(No. 5.)
My Lord,

Prevesa, March 12, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of my despatch of to-day's date to Her Majesty's Ambassador, reporting the illegal release of a notorious villain of the name of Mustafá Pronio, the murder of a Christian by a Government official, and the appearance of brigands in the vicinity of Prevesa.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure in No. 68.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Mr. Goschen.

Sir,

Prevesa, March 12, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of your Excellency, that Mustafá Pronio, who was the subject of no less than five despatches which I had the honour of addressing to Sir Henry Layard, has been released through the interference, it appears, of Ferik Zeki Pasha, commander of the troops in Epirus.

The release and consequently return of such a villain to his native village cannot

* No. 63.

but be looked upon as a great violation of justice, besides danger to many of his fellow villagers, more especially that, according to Mr. Kypriotis, who communicated to me the above, it would seem that Mustafá has even been appointed Colonel of Irregulars.

Mr. Kypriotis also reports the murder of a Christian named Páno Costa Exarchi near the village of Péranna by Achmet Effendi Abdullah, a Government official, because the former refused to give up the cultivation of a field which apparently did not belong to him. The murderer, however, was immediately apprehended, but the release of Mustafá Pronio, Mr. Kypriotis adds, makes him hope that he, too, will be treated in the same way!

I regret to have to report the appearance of brigands in the vicinity of Prevesa. On the night of the 10th instant at Triandafilia, the winter resort of English sportsmen, four Wallachs, named respectively Giovanni Dondi, Seguna, and two cousins, Baldavelli, were carried off.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

No. 69.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 193.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 22, 1881, 3·35 P.M.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 199 of the 18th respecting the Turco-Montenegrin boundary east of Lake Scutari, should you like Captain Sale to go to Constantinople to be employed by you in communications with Turkish Commissioner and Riza Pasha, who, it is understood, will be the principal advisers of the Porte in the matter?

No. 70.

E *Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.*

(No. 214.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 22, 1881.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 163 of the 7th instant, upon the subject of the appointment by the Sultan of an Inspector of Customs in Eastern Roumelia, which appointment the Provincial Government refuses to recognize.

Her Majesty's Government agree with your Excellency that it is not advisable for the Powers to take any formal or collective step in this matter, but your Excellency might, as you suggest, advise the Porte not to press this appointment, on the ground of the evident inexpediency of raising such a question at the present moment.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 71.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received March 23.)

E
(No. 16. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Sophia, March* 8, 1881.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 6 of the 2nd ultimo, I have the honour to inclose copies of two Circulars which have been issued by the Ministry of War with regard to the facilities to be granted to Mussulmans serving in the Bulgarian army with regard to their religious observances.

The first of these Circulars, both of which have been communicated to me confidentially, provides that the Mussulmans may be allowed to wear kalpaks without the cross; the second provides that they shall not be obliged to take off the kalpak during the prayer before meals; that Imams may be appointed from the number of those among them who can read and write; that they may be allowed to read the Koran and say their prayers in some clean place where there are no images; and that, although the hospital attendants are not dependent upon the military authorities, it is the custom to send the relations and

comrades of dying soldiers to act as their executors, and that in this respect the Mussulman soldiers will not meet with any obstacle.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure 1 in No. 71.

Circular issued by the Bulgarian Minister of War.

Monsieur, *Sophia, le* 25 *Novembre,* 1880.

SELON les bruits qui circulent, plusieurs d'entre les recrues Musulmans ne veulent pas porter des kalpaks avec la croix. Le Ministre de Guerre, ainsi qu'il a écrit précédemment, désire qu'on accorde aux recrues Turques toutes les facilités qui sont compatibles avec l'exigence du service militaire, particulièrement par ce qui a rapport à la nourriture et à l'habillement. Ainsi, trouvant maintenant que la question du port de la croix sur le kalpak ne doit pas créer d'antagonisme, à permis aux conscrits Musulmans de porter des kalpaks sans croix jusqu'au moment où la forme de l'ornement des coiffures militaires sera changé.

Je vous prie, &c.
Le Chef de la Section du Ministère de la Guerre,
(Signé) Le Capitaine ELENEFF.

Inclosure 2 in No. 71.

Circular issued by the Bulgarian Minister of War.

Sophia, le 8 *Décembre,* 1880.

QUELQUES Députés de la population Turque ont soulevé les questions relativement aux conditions du service militaire des soldats Musulmans. Le Ministre de la Guerre a donné son consentement sur les questions ci-dessous indiquées.

Que les soldats Musulmans ne soient pas obligés d'enlever leurs kalpaks à la prière commune avant le dîner, attendu que cela est contraire à la loi de leur religion.

Dans les divisions, où il y a des Mahométans de ceux d'entre eux qui savent lire et écrire religieusement, soient désignés des Imams qui, à la fin des devoirs du service, accomplissent les fonctions religieuses.

A défaut des mosquées spéciales, conformément à la religion, qu'il soit permis de lire le Koran et d'autres prières et faire le Mamay partout où ce sera propre et où il n'y a pas des images.

Quant à la question de ce qu'auprès des soldats Musulmans qui se trouvent à l'hôpital il y ait des serviteurs de leur religion pour que le malade à la dernière heure de sa vie puisse exprimer devant lui sa dernière parole, et pour ce dernier, en cas de décès du malade, procède avec son cadavre, conformément à la religion et ensuite après la législation du décès du défunt, soit exécuté par les Imams militaires et civils, selon les règles de la religion; l'enterrement du cadavre au cimetière Turc, le Ministre de la Guerre a posé la résolution suivante:—

"Les serviteurs de l'hôpital ne dépendant pas des autorités militaires, mais sans cela il est de la coutume militaire d'envoyer auprès des mourants en forme d'exécuteurs testamentaires d'entre leurs plus proches amis et camarades de service, et de cela les Musulmans non plus ne rencontreront pas d'obstacle."

L'Adjoint du Ministère de la Guerre,
(Signé) Le Lieutenant-Colonel POPOFF.
Le Chef de la Section,
Le Capitaine TATARINOFF.

No. 72.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received March 23.)

(No. 17.)
My Lord, *Sophia, March* 8, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a translation in French which has appeared in the "Bulgarski Glas" of a correspondence from Philippopoli, calling attention to the

threatening attitude of the Porte with regard to Eastern Roumelia; and accusing the Bulgarian Ministers of being entirely occupied with their private interests and of neglecting the necessary measures for the regeneration and defence of the country which is in danger. An alliance with the Greeks and the Servians is advocated as all these elements should combine to oppose the common enemy. In Eastern Roumelia it is stated that there is perfect harmony between the Greeks and the Bulgarians, and what is now required is the co-operation of the Principality. In a subsequent letter, copy of which I have also the honour to inclose, an account is given of an attempt on the part of the Porte to nominate directly an Inspector of Customs in Eastern Roumelia in opposition to the wishes of the authorities of the province. This action on the part of the Porte is cited as indicating the intention of Turkey to interfere in the internal affairs of the province for the purpose of oppressing it; and the letter concludes by stating that the situation has become intolerable; that a solution is necessary, and that it can only be obtained by force.

The "Bulgarski Glas" is a newspaper which represents the views of the so-called Conservative party, and it is therefore not astonishing to find in it attacks against the present Government. As, however, these letters were published in French evidently for the purpose of attracting the attention of foreigners rather than Bulgarians, I have thought it my duty to ask M. Stoiloff whether there was any foundation for the statements contained in them.

M. Stoiloff replied that he did not think the letters in question deserved much attention; some statements contained in them, such, for instance, that Turkey should be compensated in Eastern Roumelia for any concessions she might make to Greece, were not worthy of serious consideration, and he thought it probable that the author of the letters wished to make it believed that a feeling favourable to the Greeks existed among the Bulgarians which was certainly not the case. M. Stoiloff said, however, that the accounts which he received from Philippopoli caused him a good deal of anxiety. The state of Eastern Roumelia was far from being satisfactory. The action of the Porte with regard to the nomination of an Inspector of Customs had caused considerable excitement, and there seemed to be a good deal of discontent in the country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure 1 in No. 72.

Extract from the "Bulgarski Glas" of February 24 and 27, 1881.

Sophia, le $\frac{11}{23}$ *Février*, 1881.

NOUS avons reçu de Philippopoli une correspondance qui est assez importante pour que nous en donnions ici la traduction en Français, et nous attirons sur elle et sur son contenu l'attention de qui de droit. Voici la première partie de cette correspondance:—

"Plovdiv, le $\frac{21 \text{ Janvier}}{2 \text{ Février}}$, 1881.

"La situation de notre pays se complique et devient de plus en plus grave devant l'attitude menaçante de la Porte, qui se croit maîtresse de diriger à son gré les destinées du pays sans se soucier de notre autonomie et des privilèges que le Statut Organique, sanctionné par les Puissances, nous a octroyés.

"La Porte s'efforce de vouloir trop tirer la ficelle, et elle s'imagine qu'ayant placé à la tête de cette province un Pacha, elle peut tout tenter, tout entreprendre contre ce pays sorti à peine de l'esclavage. Les Ministres Turcs jouent gros jeu cette fois, et ils risquent fort de perdre la partie, car en dehors du Gouverneur-Général il y a le Comité Permanent élu par le suffrage de l'Assemblée Provinciale, il y a le Directoire, il y a enfin le peuple, et vous pouvez être persuadé que tous se soulèveront d'un seul corps pour défendre les intérêts de la nation si la Porte s'avisât de vouloir y porter atteinte.

"Ces intérêts et la liberté de la nation sont aujourd'hui menacés et gravement compromis si nous devons en croire la rumeur qui circule depuis quelques jours de l'existence d'un projet conçu par quelques Cabinets Européens et que quelques-uns des diplomates n'hésiteraient pas à appuyer. Ce projet consisterait à sacrifier la Roumélie Orientale pour résoudre la question Turco-Grecque. La province serait donc par ce fait cédée aux Turcs en compensation des territoires livrés à la Grèce!

"C'est de la bonne politique comme vous voyez; aussi, pour contrecarrer un projet si hardi, il faut nécessairement que le peuple de la Principauté se soulève, que tous les Bulgares, quel que soit le parti qu'ils représentent, s'unissent étroitement pour défendre la liberté de leurs frères Rouméliotes.

"Il règne ici une grande agitation provoquée par les armements considérables de la Turquie, et par les forces imposantes que cette Puissance réunit à la frontière Est. On ne comprend pas précisément le but que la Turquie poursuit. Serait-ce l'intention de vouloir occuper militairement la Roumélie Orientale pour finir avec la province avant d'entrer en lutte avec la Grèce, ou bien compte-t-elle sur l'appui des Puissances pour mettre en exécution le projet dont je viens de faire mention? L'avenir nous prouvera les véritables raisons qui poussent la Porte à commettre des actes aussi irréfléchis. Quoiqu'il en soit, c'est le moment d'agir, pour le pays, et il agira résolument, persuadé qu'il est qu'au moment suprême, l'aide et le concours de la Principauté ne lui feront point défaut.

"Pendant que ces luttes intérieures agitent le pays, en vue d'événements prochains, pendant que nos frères de la Macédoine souffrent et gémissent sous le poids de la misère, de la persécution, et de l'exil, pendant que les Bulgares habitant la Turquie et la Roumélie Orientale sont en butte à toutes sortes de vexations de la part des autorités Turques que fait la Principauté? Tous les regards sont dirigés vers ce point d'où l'on attend la délivrance.

"La Principauté qu'a-t-elle fait jusqu'à ce jour? Rien, absolument rien, et ici on attribue cette torpeur au peu de patriotisme de vos gouvernants et à l'existence des partis qui divisent le pays. Il est temps, croyons-nous, que cette insouciance cesse; il faut qu'à l'heure actuelle, où les intérêts et l'avenir de la nation Bulgare sont en jeu, il faut, disons-nous, que vos gouvernants abandonnent leurs intérêts privés et toute rivalité pour se dévouer entièrement et en commun au bonheur et à la prospérité de la mère-patrie.

"Examinons un peu que font cependant vos Ministres. Au lieu de penser aux moyens de régénérer le pays, et de prendre les mesures de défense que comporte la situation, ils s'occupent plutôt d'intérêts mesquins, de leur avenir personnel, et on se dispute le pouvoir. C'est ainsi que leur temps s'écoule, sans qu'ils réfléchissent que cette conduite, qui entraîne pour eux la plus grande responsabilité, pourrait bien leur être fatale, car nous prévoyons de grands malheurs, et si votre Gouvernement continue à faire preuve de cette négligence coupable, nul doute qu'il perdra le pays sans aucune rémission.

"L'époque des hésitations est passée. Le peuple a toléré jusqu'à ce jour tous les caprices et toutes les imprudences des hommes qui le gouvernent, mais il ne doit plus permettre que ses intérêts les plus vitaux soient foulés aux pieds par une réunion d'hommes qui, n'ayant d'autre souci que de se maintenir au pouvoir, méconnaissent leurs devoirs et la mission qui leur est confiée.

"Le moment donc est suprême, il faut agir sans perdre une minute. La patrie est en danger, et si on ne prend pas aujourd'hui des mesures urgentes demain ce sera trop tard, car l'ennemi sera à nos portes. Il faut s'armer et se préparer courageusement à une lutte acharnée et définitive.

"Il faut chercher des alliances, s'unir aux Grecs, aux Serbes. Tous ces éléments doivent se réunir pour combattre l'ennemi commun et pour obtenir une liberté complète, sans restriction.

"La province est donc prête à entrer dans la lutte qui se prépare, mais elle attend le concours de la Principauté. Aussi nous gémissons de voir nos frères voisins rester impassibles et n'avoir encore rien entrepris pour faciliter notre union. Que nos frères de la Principauté nous donnent le premier signal, qu'ils nous tendent la main, et nous marcherons à l'accomplissement de nos destinées.

"Tel est le but vers lequel doivent tendre tous les efforts de vos gouvernants. Si les Ministres qui sont aujourd'hui au pouvoir mettent obstacle aux élans patriotiques de la nation, il faut abattre ce Ministère. Je vous ai dépeint la véritable situation des esprits ici, et j'ajouterai qu'on est très irrité contre votre Gouvernement, qui, au lieu de s'armer, pour assurer l'union avec les Bulgares de la Roumélie Orientale et prendre toutes les mesures pour parer aux événements qui se préparent, tergiverse et compromet ainsi l'avenir de la nation.

"Ces Ministres imprudents auront à se justifier devant un peuple avide de vengeance. Aussi, ils seront traînés dans la fange s'ils ne se soumettent aux aspirations et aux vœux patriotiques de la nation.

"Une franche cordialité règne actuellement ici entre Grecs et Bulgares; ces deux partis, qui étaient jusqu'à ce jour divisés, viennent de se réunir, en vue du prochain conflit qui paraît imminent entre la Grèce et la Turquie.

"Une parfaite harmonie s'est établie entre ces deux éléments disparates, et cette union a une grande signification politique dans les circonstances actuelles. C'est assez pour vous dire que dans les moments sérieux où les intérêts du pays sont compromis, les partis cessent d'exister et tous s'unissent pour défendre la patrie commune.

"Aussi, à l'occasion du bal Bulgare, donné Samedi dernier au profit de l'Orphélinat,

des dames Grecques faisaient partie du Comité organisateur; des toasts ont été portés par les Grecs aux Bulgares et par ces derniers aux Grecs; enfin, il règna dans ce bal une grande animation, et Grecs et Bulgares étaient confondus dans une étreinte fraternelle.

"Dimanche, le $\frac{1}{13}$ courant, aura lieu le bal des dames Grecques. Là encore des dames Bulgares font partie du Comité, et les billets sont distribués conjointement par les dames Grecques et Bulgares.

"Il n'y a plus de doute, l'union de ces deux éléments est un fait accompli. On attend maintenant avec anxiété notre union avec la Principauté.

"Qu'on se presse, car le moment est arrivé où il faudra assurer à jamais l'unité nationale."

* * * * * *

Nous avons longtemps vécu avec les Turcs et nous connaissons bien les sentiments qui les animent. Nous les avons entendu cent fois dire et répéter qu'ils quitteront bien l'Europe, mais seulement après avoir réduit la péninsule Balcanique en cendres par le fer et le feu.

Tout le monde sera d'accord avec nous que les Bulgares de la Principauté, ainsi que de la Roumélie, ont été jusqu'à présent d'une tranquillité et d'une sérénité parfaite et qu'ils regardaient les événements qui se préparaient à la frontière de la Grèce presqu'avec indifférence. Ils n'ont pas acheté un seul fusil dans cette circonstance et n'ont augmenté leurs armées d'un seul soldat. Mais pourquoi la Porte rassemble-t-elle des corps d'armées à la frontière de la Roumélie et pourquoi concentre-t-elle à notre frontière Macédonienne des bandes Albanaises? Cela ne prouve-t-il pas assez les mauvaises intentions du Gouverne-Turc à l'égard du peuple Bulgare?

Il est donc de notre devoir de nous préparer pour toutes les éventualités; nous ne pouvons pas rester les bras croisés au moment où les dangers les plus sérieux menacent notre tranquillité et même notre existence; nous serons des traîtres à notre patrie si nous ne nous armons à la hâte et si nous ne nous préparons à la défense du sol de nos pères, qui vient à peine d'être affranchi après des siècles d'esclavage, et dont la liberté et l'indépendance sont menacées d'une manière aussi inattendue.

Inclosure 2 in No. 72.

Extract from the "Bulgarski Glas" of March 6, 1881.

Philippopoli, le $\frac{1}{13}$ Février, 1881.

LES Bulgares de la Principauté veulent-ils laisser périr leurs frères de la Roumélie Orientale? Tel est, en ce moment, le grand problème du jour, telle est la question palpitante du moment, et qui rend perplexe le peuple Rouméliote.

On se demande quelle est la cause de la torpeur dans laquelle semble plongée la Bulgarie, et pourquoi hésite-t-on à se préparer pour la défense des droits et de la liberté des frères opprimés?

Nous avons précédemment émis l'opinion générale sur la cause réelle de cette insouciance, et nous avons indiqué les véritables coupables. Mais le peuple doit-il pour cela se soumettre aux volontés et aux imprudences des gouvernants, et n'a-t-il pas la force lui-même de secouer la pression qui lui est faite, pour se préparer résolument au combat quels qu'ils soient les obstacles qui s'y opposent?

Naturellement il le peut, et il le fera. Aussi le pays tout entier de la Roumélie Orientale fait un chaleureux appel au peuple Bulgare de la Principauté, l'invitant à se grouper en masse autour du même drapeau, de s'unir à leurs frères Roumélioles pour combattre l'ennemi commun, et défendre les intérêts généraux de la même patrie.

On ne doit plus se faire d'illusion! le moment est arrivé où il faudra dégainer, et commencer une lutte acharnée et terrible. La Turquie nous menace, nous impose; elle entend s'immiscer dans nos affaires intérieures, nous opprimer enfin.

Resterons-nous impassibles à toutes ces provocations? Nous ne le pouvons et nous ne le devons pas. L'idée seule de courber la tête devant la pression des Turcs nous révolte et nous indigne. Aussi, le pays est décidé, irrévocablement décidé à résister jusqu'au bout, et si l'on voudra lui imposer par la force, loin de céder, il répondra aussi par les armes!

La Roumélie Orientale est en danger; telle est la situation.

La Porte, sans réfléchir aux conséquences d'une démarche aussi irréfléchie qu'insensée, s'est avisée de nommer directement un fonctionnaire chargé de contrôler et d'inspecter les Douanes de la province. Zuhdi Bey, tel est le nom de ce fonctionnaire, s'est installé ici, et à la suite des instructions précises reçues de son Gouvernement, il insiste plus que

jamais d'être reconnu par le Gouvernement Provincial. Or, nos gouvernants sont assez sages et assez bons patriotes pour accorder au Représentant de la Porte la sanction qu'il demandait, et le Gouverneur-Général a fait savoir à Zuhdi Bey qu'il n'entendait pas les choses ainsi, et qu'il fallait rebrousser chemin. Dès lors, nouvelles insistances de la Porte, nouvelle opposition de la province. Bref, la situation s'aggrave de jour en jour, et la rupture des relations entre la province et le Gouvernement Turc est imminente.

Le but de la Porte n'est pas précisément de vouloir inspecter les Douanes de la province par un fonctionnaire Turc, mais bien autre chose.

Il y a anguille sous roche, car l'intention de la Porte en agissant comme elle le fait cache un but politique.

Quoique le Traité de Berlin accorde à la Turquie le droit d'occuper les Balkans, néanmoins cette Puissance ne peut procéder à cette occupation, ses finances en désarroi complet ne lui permettant pas, et puis pouvoir le faire, il faudrait que les armées Turques passent sur les corps des Bulgares. Aussi, la Turquie, comprenant parfaitement ce danger, ne peut en aucune façon se décider à occuper militairement les Balkans, cette occupation, il faut le répéter, ne pouvant avoir lieu qu'après un véritable massacre!

Cela étant, elle a imaginé un autre moyen d'arriver à ses fins sans trop de frais, et sans donner à la démarche qu'elle allait tenter aucun caractère militaire, mais simplement administratif.

Ce moyen consistait à nommer un fonctionnaire Turc qui aurait pour mission de contrôler les Douanes de la province, et à qui la Porte veut adjoindre un nombre fabuleux d'agents, destinés à former un cordon Douanier imposant; c'est par ce moyen, aussi ingénieux que rusé, que la Porte comptait occuper les Balkans et toute la Roumélie Orientale.

Ce plan a été heureusement déjoué grâce à la sagesse de notre Gouverneur-Général et la prudence de nos gouvernants.

Aujourd'hui la situation est devenue intolérable; il faudra venir à une solution, et ce n'est sans doute que par les armes que nous y parviendrons.

No. 73.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received March 23.)

E

(No. 18. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Sophia, March 9*, 1881.

NIHAD PASHA has informed me that he has recently received a telegram from the Porte instructing him to make inquiries into a report published in a Vienna newspaper with regard to the importation of arms and ammunition into Bulgaria.

As this telegram must have been sent from Constantinople shortly after the receipt of Nihad Pasha's despatch stating that he was convinced that the Bulgarian Government were sincere in their declarations of peace and were not making any military preparations, he was afraid either that the Turkish Government were not satisfied with the assurance which he had given, or that they desired to be furnished with information in the opposite sense. He has telegraphed back to the Porte that he has not been able to ascertain that there is any foundation for the report which has appeared in the Vienna newspaper, and that having again made careful inquiries into the matter, he can only repeat his conviction of the peaceful intentions of the Bulgarian Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 74.

Consul Sandwith to Earl Granville.—(Received March 23.)

(No. 11.)

My Lord, *Canea, Crete, March 12*, 1881.

IN my last despatch to your Lordship I had the honour to describe the state of insubordination into which the districts around and east of Candia had fallen. In Mirabella, the threat of popular violence had induced the authorities to release prisoners confined for a flagrant breach of law. Similarly, when the police arrested a Christian who had been implicated in the murder of two Mussulmans mentioned in my last despatch, his friends gathered in force, and succeeded in overpowering the guard of the

prison where he was confined and liberating him. In Candia itself, meanwhile, the Mussulmans took to insulting and hustling the Christians in the cafés, so that for some time past nobody has ventured out at night. To remedy this state of things, the Vali ordered the Mutessarif of Rethymo, a certain Essad Bey, to change posts with the Mutessarif of Candia, Hussein Bey, and this simple administrative measure has sufficed to restore confidence. Essad Bey is a Kurd of little education, but many years' service in Crete, chiefly in subordinate posts, has earned him a reputation for a steady and wise energy, which indicate him as the only local functionary capable of coping with the anarchy which is beginning to make itself felt in the other end of the island.

Photiades Pasha informs me that, inasmuch as the military force at his disposal is reduced to six weak battalions, numbering only 2,500 men, he telegraphed to the Porte for more troops, and that two battalions, each between 600 and 700 strong, are already on their way from Constantinople. The expected troops are Redif, and the Commander-in-chief, Edhem Pasha, purposes to distribute them among the six battalions already here, so as to bring them nearer to their normal strength.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 75.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 23.)

(No. 39.)
My Lord, *Salonica, March* 14, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, extract from a Report of Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Pecchioli, relative to the tranquillity which prevails in the Sandjak of Drama, also the extract from a letter of my correspondent in the district of Cassandra, relative to the state of affairs in that district and the conduct of the troops stationed in the village of Isvor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 75.

Acting Vice-Consul Pecchioli to Consul-General Blunt.

(Extrait.) *Cavalla, le 5 Mars*, 1881.

LA tranquillité publique est excellente et la sûreté irréprochable, même dans les campagnes, malgré la misère de l'année précédente, le nombre des déserteurs, les conséquences de guerres passées, et le conflit des races qui habitent ces contrées, et à la veille des événements qui pourraient avoir jusqu'ici leur contrecoup.

Les Turcs sont très confiants dans leurs forces vis-à-vis de la Grèce, qui, en cas de guerre, ils supposent sera laissée à lui-même sans aide aucune.

Les Grecs ont beaucoup de confiance dans la politique de l'Angleterre et de son honorable Ministère, et attendent avec calme les événements sans formation des Comités, sans souscriptions, ni publiques ni secrètes, en faveur des armements, et sans un mouvement des volontaires bien accentué pour la Grèce.

Je crois que, malgré ces apparences de tranquillité, en cas de guerre les Grecs de ces pays dévoileront leur feu maintenant sous les cendres, mais pour le moment tout se passe au mieux dans le meilleur des sandjaques possibles.

Inclosure 2 in No. 75.

Letter from Consul-General Blunt's Correspondent at Cassandra.

(Extract.) *Isvor, March* 11, 1881.

NO acts of brigandage have occurred since my arrival here.

There are brigands, however, in the district, and they are frequently seen. One band, composed of twelve men, is commanded by Thomas Catzaros, and has its quarters between this and Mount Cholomdra; another, commanded by Athanass Shipolnikioti, consists of seven men; another, which confines its operations to Kalameria, is said to number twenty

men, and is composed of Turks and Christians, but I am not informed as to who is the chief.

There is also another band lately commanded by Giorgio Apostoluda, and which prowls about in the vicinity of this village and Varvara, as it is composed of natives. Giorgio Apostoluda has left this band, owing to a dispute he had with two of the company, the brothers Deliyanni.

It seems that Dimitri Apostoluda some short time ago paid a visit to this band, for the purpose of having a certain Dimitri Vlacho, timber merchant of this place, murdered, and endeavoured to persuade the brigands to shoot Dimitri Vlacho. The Deliyanni brothers, having some years ago received a favour at the hands of Dimitri Vlacho, refused to hurt him in any way, and abused Dimitri Apostoluda, whereupon his brother Giorgio came forward to take his part, and a quarrel ensued resulting in the departure of the former. Giorgio Apostoluda wishes to return to his allegiance to the Government, but wants to have his pardon guaranteed before presenting himself.

There is also a feud between Thomas Catzaro and Athanass Shipolnikioti owing to a dispute which arose last summer between them at Reshidnik, and which resulted in the exchange of shots between their respective bands.

Catzaro has sworn to exterminate Athanass and his band, and will not commit any act of brigandage until his vow is fulfilled, and he is now in pursuit of his enemy.

There are now stationed at Isvor sixty troops of the line under the command of a captain and a lieutenant. They are also employed in collecting taxes, and I must bear witness to the very lenient manner in which these two officers behave to defaulters. I happened to witness the following scene:—

A man was called up to pay some 80 piastres, and in reply stated that he had no money, but that he was owed by two or three parties; instead of insisting on the payment of the tax the man was sent off to collect his debts or to get those who owed him to pay the tax for him.

I observe that the troops pay regularly for all their purchases and are very orderly.

No. 76.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 23.)

(No. 40.)
My Lord, *Salonica, March* 14, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of Mr. Vice-Consul Longworth's Report to Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople on the subject of the adventures of a female brigand chief.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 76.

Vice-Consul Longworth to Mr. St. John.

Sir, *Larissa, March* 8, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to report on the adventures of a female brigand chief, as the incidents of her life, apart from their romantic novelty, may not be found entirely devoid of political as well as social interest.

Near the town of Schatista, in the Province of Monastir, there lived some four years ago a poor family of Greek tenants, the eldest son of which household, named Yani Kriaka, joined the insurrection of 1878, and on the cessation of hostilities betook himself to the vocation of a brigand.

The Turkish authorities, to bring the youth within the limits of the law, violently seized and imprisoned his father, mother, and brother, and would have done the same with his sister Peristera, had she not evaded their purpose by joining her brother in the mountains.

Peristera, young as she was, concealing her sex and assuming the name of Spano Vangheli, became one of Kriaka's band, until about six months ago, when the brother met his death in an engagement with the Turkish troops. The sister, tired of a mountaineer's life, would have returned to her home, were it not for the tidings that the whole of her family had been exiled to a distant country. Being thus left apparently friendless and

destitute in condition, the girl bound herself to a vow of vengeance against the Turks, to whose injustice and oppression she attributed all her misfortunes. She joined the remnant of her brother's band, then numbering to twelve brigands, under the leadership of Tzangha, who, however, about three months ago, finding the "profession did not pay," surrendered himself with seven followers to the Turkish authorities at Larissa. But Peristera was not discouraged by this desertion; she, on the contrary, secured for herself the chieftaincy of the five remaining number, by keeping them in ignorance of her sex and by renouncing her share in any coming booty; and thus winning their obedience, led them on aided by an auxiliary of nightwalkers to several successful expeditions against the Mahommedans of the Schatista, Tricalla, and Ellassona districts.

The exploits of her band attracted the attention of the notorious Yani Kimikam and his fifteen robbers, who hastened to bring about a meeting wherein to negotiate an offensive and defensive alliance. The brigand chief chanced to be an old friend of Kriaka, and Peristera, making him her confidant, a mutual attachment sprung up between them, which resulted for the time being in the union of the two bands. But on the 21st ultimo the brigands were surrounded in the Khassia region by a large force, composed of a body of Albanian police and a detachment of Turkish troops, and in the encounter Yani Kimikam was severely disabled and the band dispersed.

The fidelity and courage displayed by the girl in these circumstances were worthy of a better cause. She remained behind endeavouring to save her wounded companion by firing in quick succession on the advancing guard, when another bullet stretched him dead at her feet. Making her escape amid a volley of shot, which only pierced her clothing, she wandered alone and without food for three days on the mountains, until coming across a Greek shepherd she obtained from him a morsel of bread, and forced him, on the penalty of death, to conduct her in safety and secrecy to the nearest village.

The man took her to his hut at Mavrell, a small hamlet in the Ellassona district, from where she wrote a note expressing a wish to surrender herself to the Consulate. The Civil and Military Governors of Thessaly promised she should not be molested, and offered, moreover, to bring about the release of her family, if she would, in the meanwhile, remain quiet and under the immediate care and responsibility of the Greek Archbishop. Two priests were consequently sent to bring her to Larissa, where she arrived on the 2nd instant; but, owing to a dense crowd of idle spectators, I did not think it fit to have her brought here, and arranged instead to see her at the Archbishopric.

She wore the usual brigand costume, consisting of buckskin trousers and sandals, a black cap, a tight jacket with loose sleeves, a three-fold kilt besmeared with grease, a brilliant girdle with Albanian pistols, an eastern scimitar, and a Greek rifle. Her only ornaments were a silver breast-plate with connected links, and a chain of small coins, to which was attached the seal of the bandit. In appearance she seemed above the medium height, well proportioned, and rather handsome, and although, when excited, she is decidedly passionate in temper and vehement in speech, yet in her calmer moments the sadness of her face betrays a broken spirit, which perhaps was once actuated by higher motives than mere hatred and revenge.

She knows to read and write and is acquainted with needlework; and now that she is dressed in maidenly clothing her effeminate appearance renders it difficult to believe that within the last two years this girl of seventeen had shared in eight sanguinary combats, and had braved so long the fatigues and hardships of a wild and perilous life in the mountains.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 77.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received March 23.)

E
(No. 139.)
My Lord, *Vienna, March 19, 1881.*

AS instructed by your Lordship's despatch No. 82, I have asked Baron Haymerle whether he concurred in the course proposed by Captain Sale in his despatch No. 17 for the settlement of the Montenegrin question.

His Excellency said that his first impression was that the arrangement would be a very proper one, but it would be necessary to examine it with care and also to inquire whether there would be much prospect of obtaining the evacuation of Matagos by the Turks, who formerly attached great importance to its possession.

He entirely agrees in considering that the principle of allowing all questions to be decided by the majority of the Commissioners ought to be recognized.

His Excellency then proceeded to speak of the question of the thalweg of the Boyana, observing that, though it had been fixed as the frontier by all the Commissioners, with the exception of the Ottoman Delegate, it had not yet been acquiesced in by the Porte.

This remark gave me the opportunity of endeavouring to ascertain whether there were grounds for the rumour mentioned in Mr. Goschen's despatch No. 109 of a wish on the part of the Austrian Government to exclude Turkish gun-boats from the Boyana, and I hinted that the hesitation of the Porte to accept the thalweg might be caused by an apprehension that it would have such an effect.

His Excellency, however, at once replied that the Turks ought to be relieved of any such apprehension, and satisfied that the adoption of the thalweg as the frontier would not interfere with the perfect freedom of access to Scutari and the lake.

Baron Haymerle would not think it advisable to raise any question or to make any communication about the Montenegrin frontier to the Porte as long as the much more important matter of the Greek frontier is being treated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 78.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 218.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March 23, 1881.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 159 of the 6th instant, in which you refer to Mr. Kirby Green's observations as to the probability that Austria may claim to apply the provision of the XXIXth Article of the Treaty of Berlin to the Boyana, with the effect that the waters of that river would be closed to Turkish vessels of war, and I concur with your Excellency that such a pretension on the part of Austria would be inadmissible in view of the understanding recorded by the Powers, through their Boundary Commissioners, at the meeting of the Commission held at Scutari on the 4th February, 1881, that the Turks should have full and free liberty of navigation on the Boyana.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 79.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 13.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March 23, 1881.*

AS it is not unlikely that you may be consulted by some of the Albanian Chiefs as to their attitude in case of the outbreak of hostilities between Turkey and Greece, I think it as well to impress upon you the necessity of being very guarded in your language.

It is most undesirable that Her Majesty's Government should be compromised by giving advice, unless they had some definite policy to recommend which they would be prepared to support. In the present state of affairs in Albania, it is impossible to lay down such a line of policy, and all that Her Majesty's Government wish you to do is to watch events, and keep them fully informed.

I am, &c.
(Signed). GRANVILLE.

No. 80.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received March 24.)

(No. 27.)
My Lord, *Scutari, March 11, 1881.*

A RESPECTABLE native Christian of this place, now residing at Prisrend, writes to one of his relatives here, under date of the 3rd instant, that the greatest order is maintained there by the authorities of the League, and that the Christians are well treated and under no present alarm.

He says that a further demand has been addressed to the Porte for the confirmation of Shaïb Agha as Mutessarif of the district of Prisrend, and that in the meantime, at a recent public meeting held to discuss the reported approach of Imperial troops for the purpose of re-establishing the Ottoman authority, it was decided to levy a body of 10,000 men to maintain, at all hazards, the new order of things.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 81.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received March 24.)

(No. 28.)
My Lord, *Scutari, March* 12, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that since the embarkation at Durazzo of the two Redif battalions of Tirana and Elbassan mentioned in my despatch No. 9 of the 19th ultimo, orders have been received at the above-named military centres to be prepared to embody, at the shortest notice, the two battalions of the 2nd ban of Redifs for service in Epirus.

This impending measure has, I understand, driven many of the peasants who are liable to be called out to seek refuge in the mountains and become brigands.

I am told that the Ottoman military authorities abstain from molesting the brigands in Lower Albania, whether they are Mussulmans or Christians, as it is believed the first may be of use as irregular troops in case of the outbreak of war, and a conflict with the Christian brigands might just now be inconveniently magnified into the commencement of hostilities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 82.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received March 24.)

(Telegraphic.) *Salonica, March* 24, 1881.

TURKISH military authorities are acting energetically at Uscup. They have arrested the President and six of the leading members of the Albanian League and sent them under strong escort by special train to Salonica, where they arrived early this morning, and have been confined in the fortress.

At Uscup the military have suppressed the rule of the League and re-established the Sultan's authority without disturbance, and are preparing to do the same at Pristina.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 83.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received March 25.)

(No. 29.)
My Lord, *Scutari, March* 12, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the translation of a letter received by me from Seyed Salih, the Religious Teacher of Dulcigno, a man of paramount influence in that place.

When Dervish Pasha was preparing to surrender Dulcigno to Montenegro, he endeavoured to persuade all the inhabitants to abandon the town, promising them, in the name of the Sultan, rewards and compensations.

The treatment which the Dulcigniotes had received at the hands of the Turkish authorities when they fled from their homes on the capture of Dulcigno by the Montenegrins during the war made them doubt the value of Dervish Pasha's promises and decide not to leave the town.

Seyed Salih, for the reasons explained in his letter—which he has also addressed, in a circular form, to all my colleagues, and to the local authorities—consented to endeavour to further Dervish Pasha's aims, by withdrawing from Dulcigno.

The influence of this personage is so great in his native district, that I have no doubt

the Prince of Montenegro will hasten to bestow on him a salary quite equal to that with which Dervish Pasha was able to tempt him.

The recital of Seyed Salih's experiences and conduct, I think, will furnish your Lordship with a clear insight into the late attempts of the Turkish authorities to prove that the Montenegrin Government was, by its cruel proceedings, forcing the Mahommedan inhabitants of the annexed towns and districts to emigrate.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 83.

Seyed Salih to Mr. Kirby Green.

(Translation.) *27th Chubat*, 1296 (*11th March*, 1881).

AS all the world knows, his Excellency Dervish Pasha informed me on my leaving Dulcigno, much to my satisfaction, that he would obtain from His Imperial Majesty the Sultan the authority to bestow on me a salary 1,000 piastres a-month.

Up to the present time, having had nothing, and seeing that a further application to his Excellency the Vali has had no result, I consequently find myself forced, for I am without means, to return and establish myself at Dulcigno.

I inform you of this, as I do not wish it to be supposed that I am leaving as a fugitive.

The Spiritual Teacher (Mederiss) of Dulcigno,
(Sealed) SALIH.

No. 84.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received March 25.)

(No. 30.)
My Lord, *Scutari, March* 15, 1881.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 28 of the 12th instant, I have the honour to report that, on the 8th instant, urgent telegraphic orders were received for the immediate dispatch to Janina, by land, of the two last Redif battalions of Tiranna and Elbassan.

The battalion of the latter district commenced its march southwards, viâ Berat, barely 300 strong, and it is doubtful whether the reinforcements which were ordered to follow could be collected, as the men of these reserves are showing great disinclination to obey the call to arms, and those that have done so already are deserting in considerable numbers.

A further telegraphic order has directed the immediate recruitment of all the men liable this year for military service.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 85.

Assim Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Pasha, March 25.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, le 17 Mars*, 1881.

J'AI reçu les deux dépêches que votre Excellence a bien voulu m'adresser le 1er Mars, pour me transmettre le compte-rendu des interpellations qui ont eu lieu à la Chambre des Communes sur les forteresses de la Bulgarie, et sur les instructions données au Ministre d'Angleterre à Athènes relativement à l'arbitrage proposé par la France.

Je remercie votre Excellence de ces intéressantes communications.

Les informations que nous possédons sur les forteresses de la Bulgarie ne s'accordent guère avec celles du Gouvernement Britannique, ni avec les déclarations faites par Sir Charles Dilke. Aucune mesure que nous sachions n'a été prise pour la démolition des forteresses du Danube qui, laissées intactes, sont en parfait état de défense. La dernière campagne n'en a prouvé que trop l'importance stratégique, puisque, malgré les efforts des Russes, aucune d'elles n'a pu tomber entre leurs mains.

Je vous prie de faire part de ces réflexions à Sir Charles Dilke la première fois que vous aurez l'occasion de le voir.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) M. ASSIM.

No. 86.

Mr Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received March 27.)

(No. 197.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 16, 1881.

WITH reference to my despatch to your Lordship No. 138 of the 24th of last month, reporting a conversation I had had with the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject of the irritation caused in Eastern Roumelia by the delay of the Porte in sanctioning the Budget and other measures submitted to it for this purpose, your Lordship will have observed, from a telegram of Mr. Stephen of the 13th instant, that the sanction of the Budget, as well as of eleven of the laws voted last Session, has at last been given.

Though the nomination of various functionaries has not been sanctioned by the Porte at the same time, nevertheless, it would appear from the step now taken, that the arguments which I put before the Minister in favour of a conciliatory attitude towards Eastern Roumelia, and of putting matters upon a more regular footing, have not remained as entirely without effect, as I feared.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 87.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received March 27.)

(No. 216.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 21, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith to your Lordship copies of two despatches from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Rustchuk on the subjects of the Bulgarian Census and the taking of the Oath of Allegiance to the Czar by Russian subjects in Bulgaria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 87.

Vice-Consul Dalziel to Mr. Lascelles.

Sir, *Rustchuk, March* 8, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the statistics of this prefecture, as shown by the Census taken on the 1st January, 1881 (o. s.), viz.:—

	Christians.	Mussulmans.	Total.
Sub-prefecture of Tutmean	10,299	19,887	30,186
„ Bal-Bunar	4,187	20,799	24,986
„ Bela	19,090	15,254	34,344
„ Roustchouk	12,745	1,890	14,635
„ „ town	10,789	10,352	
Jews and foreign subjects	4,331	..	26,646
Army	1,174	..	
Total	62,615	68,182	130,797

In the official statistics the outlying districts are roughly divided into Bulgarians and Mussulmans, without taking account of Jews or others who may be dwelling there, and who will swell the Christian column against their will.

In the town proper, where by far the larger portion of the Jews and the foreign subjects are congregated, the following Table shows the classification, viz.:—

Bulgarians	10,789	
Mussulmans	10,352	
Jews	2,050	
Armenians	861	
Greeks	257	
Serbs	79	
Montenegrins	4	
Russians	117	
Roumanians	187	
Austrians	568	
Teleques	14	
Germans	37	
French	57	
British	22	
Italians	49	
Persians	29	
		25,472
Army and Navy		1,174
Total		26,646

The statistics taken by the Russians during their occupation showed in the same district 110,000, and in the town 19,000, so that we have an apparent increase of 20,000 in the prefecture and 7,000 in the town; but if the truth were known, I believe both are under the reality, for I have little doubt that a great many young men, especially Jews, who may be liable to the conscription, have been omitted from the Returns. In confirmation of this, the number of families is returned at 5,500, which, if stated at the ordinary allowance of 5 persons each, would give 27,500, whereas there are only 25,472, exclusive of soldiers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. DALZIEL.

P.S.—The following is the composition of the army and navy, viz.:—

Bulgars	923
Turks	157
Jews	3
Armenians	4
Greeks	1
Serbs	1
Roumans	13
Russians	70
Austrians	2
Total	1,174

Inclosure 2 in No. 87.

Vice-Consul Dalziel to Mr. Lascelles.

Sir, *Rustchuk, March* 16, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that on Monday, the 14th, the Russian Consul issued a Proclamation, of which I now inclose a copy, calling upon all Russian subjects, civil as well as military, to assemble in the Cathedral on the 15th, and then swear allegiance to the new Emperor of Russia.

Accordingly, all the officers in the Bulgarian service now here, and a number of civilians, took the oath, which was administered by the Russian Consul after a ceremony by the Bishop.

This proceeding seems to have surprised the Bulgars not a little.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. DALZIEL.

No. 88.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(Received March 28.)

(No. 16.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, March 10, 1881.*

I HAD the honour to report to your Lordship, in my telegram No. 2 of the 8th instant, that strong efforts were being made by the party of action to compel the Governor-General to issue a Decree organizing the reserves, and placing them under the command and surveillance of officers chosen among local notables, who were to have the power of inflicting fines and punishments in cases of non-attendance at drill.

On the receipt of this information, I hastened to point out to Aleko Pasha the evil results likely to be produced by the adoption of such a measure. Its effects, I said, would be to revive political passions and practically to legalize and extend the powers previously exercised by the Gymnastic Societies. I added, moreover, that I failed to see how any valid excuse could be given for organizing reserves, seeing that the 1st and 2nd bans of the militia had not yet been formed, and I warned his Excellency of the bad impression such a step would produce at the present moment on the Porte.

In reply, Aleko Pasha hardly attempted to defend the scheme, giving me to understand that it was only by dint of continued urgent representations on the part of the Permanent Committee that he had been induced to entertain it. Finally, his Excellency promised to reconsider the matter, stating that it was his sincere desire to avoid doing anything contrary to the wishes and advice of the Powers.

As I had the honour to report in my telegram No 3 of last night, his Excellency has now formally assured me that he has decided not to allow any organization of the reserves until the 1st and 2nd bans of the militia are properly formed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. CONDIE STEPHEN.

No. 89.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received March 28.)

(No. 150.)
My Lord, *Vienna, March 24, 1881.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 139 of the 19th instant, I have the honour to state that Baron Haymerle informs me that he has examined the suggestion of Captain Sale respecting the Montenegrin frontier, contained in his despatch to your Lordship No. 17.

His Excellency says that if the line of the *status quo* proposed by Captain Sale is, as Bedri Bey appears to intimate, approved by the Porte and by the other Signatory Powers of the Treaty of Berlin, he has no objection to adhere to it, and to recommend its acceptation at Cettinjé.

To remove any uneasiness that might be felt by Montenegro respecting the commanding position of the heights of Vranj, which would remain to Turkey, Baron Haymerle suggests that it might perhaps be stipulated that no fortifications should be established or allowed to exist on those hills, and also that the bridge of Kzanickimost being of importance to both parties, the possession of it should be divided between Turkey and Montenegro.

Having always maintained the principle that the Commissions of Delimitation instituted under the Treaty of Berlin should decide by the vote of a majority, Baron Haymerle is perfectly ready, in concert with the other Powers, to support the application of that principle to the future work of the Montenegrin Frontier Commission, both at Constantinople and Cettinjé.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 90.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received March 29.)

(No. 140.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 28, 1881.*

YOUR telegram No. 193.

It would be premature for Captain Sale to come to Constantinople. I am in communication with my colleagues on the subject, but till to-day they have been so absorbed by the prolonged Conferences on the Greek Frontier question, that I have been unable to get their opinion.

They will probably have to consult their Governments.

No. 91.

Consul Sandwith to Earl Granville.—(Received March 30.)

(No. 13.)
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, March 21, 1881.*

IN my despatch No. 11 of the 12th instant I had the honour to inform your Lordship that the Vali of Crete had appointed another Mutessarif for the town and Sandjak of Candia. He has brought the town to a state of comparative order by causing twenty of the ringleaders of the recent disorders to be imprisoned, both Christians and Mussulmans, and by closing the taverns at sunset. In the country, however, the Government is rapidly losing what little authority it had, the late refusal to pay a trifling impost, and the successful rescue of prisoners from confinement, having taught the people that they may set their Governors at defiance with impunity. It will be difficult to recover the authority already lost, particularly at a moment when the air is full of rumours of war, and the expectation of a coming change is general.

One of the two battalions which I reported in my last despatch of the 18th instant to have arrived in Suda Bay was dispatched to Candia on the 19th, and the other is shortly to follow. Photiades Pasha informs me of his intention to proceed thither to-morrow, accompanied by the Commander-in-chief, Edhem Pasha, but the presence of the former is not calculated to produce much effect. In Edhem Pasha the Vali has a firm and able coadjutor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 92.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received March 31.)

(No. 31.)
My Lord, *Scutari, March 19, 1881.*

THE Montenegrin Government informs me that its frontier territory near Podgoritza is almost daily the scene of raids, murders, and robberies committed by the Albanians of that neighbourhood, and who, it asserts, are encouraged in these proceedings by the Ottoman military authorities at Tousi.

Voïvoda Radonich, in bringing these facts under my notice, and which, as far as commission is concerned, have been confirmed to me by Albanians, declares that although Prince Nicholas has prohibited all reprisals, His Highness still fears that a continuance of aggressions may cause his orders to be disregarded.

Whilst I have every confidence in the Prince's inclination to follow to the extreme the counsel I give him, to continue to show the greatest forbearance in these matters, I cannot but inform your Lordship that there is not the smallest doubt that the Turkish authorities in this vilayet, both military and civil, have not yet been brought to understand that it is the desire of their Government to cultivate friendly intercourse with Montenegro.

Lest it should be presumed that I am ever inclined to support the Montenegrin Government as against the Turkish authorities, I venture to recall to your Lordship's mind that I have always succeeded in inducing the former to follow the advice of Her Majesty's Government, and to state that the assassinations and aggressions complained of have all occurred on Montenegrin and not on Albano-Turkish territory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 93.

Lord Ampthill to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 31.)

(No. 165. Extender.)

My Lord, *Berlin, March* 28, 1881.

I AM informed that the German Government, for obvious reasons, will leave the recognition of the new Kingdom of Roumania to the initiative of the other Powers, and will be the last to follow suit.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AMPTHILL.

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